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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

Anne Boleyn: an Historical Romance. By Mrs. A. T. Thomson, author of "Constance," "The Life and Times of Henry VIII.," "Memoirs of the Duchess of Marlborough," &c. &c. 3 vols. H. Colburn.

THE merited popularity of the publications we have just quoted would be a sufficient passport to Mrs. Thomson's new work, without a word of encomium from us. But it would be an act of niggardly injustice to let such a production as *Anne Boleyn* make its public way, and not offer some slight tribute to it on its appearance, in anticipation of the verdict which the general voice will record. *Anne Boleyn* is a historical romance combining many highly interesting qualities. The subject is well chosen; the actors in the tragedy are traditionally distinct, and their parts varied for good and evil; the times are remarkable, gorgeous, and picturesque; the incidents, or, we should call them, the events, are striking, and their results important; there is enough in the sad story to fill the mind and affect the heart; and the author, feeling the full force of all these elements, has displayed a degree of talent equal to her theme. By the creation of a female character,—the orphan cousin of Sir Thomas Wyatt, and attached to the unfortunate queen, and by giving her a devoted lover in the person of Sir Leonard Grey (*rejuvenesced* by twenty years for the office),—she has contrived to superadd a domestic interest; and, by incorporating it and its personages with the main plot, to afford us glimpses at the mortal fever which ravaged London, the persecution and martyrdom of Protestant heretics, and other circumstances which weave in admirably with the history, and enrich it in minor accessories, which not only illustrate the state of society and the country, but give an air of reality to the whole narrative, which the broad features of national and courtly imagery could not have possessed. In these things the taste and skill of a writer are shewn; and Mrs. Thomson exhibits excellence in this species of composition. True history is not perverted by what has been imagined; and what has been imagined is congenial to, and throws a light upon, true history. In her preface her discretion is evinced, and she tells us:—

"Many circumstances connected with the fate of Anne Boleyn, and several of the characters who influenced her destiny, have been necessarily suppressed. I have also avoided bringing forward the coarse and cruel Henry on the scene. In the first place, because I did not consider myself equal to depict the portrait of such a man. His powerful understanding and dissolute character require a far more vigorous pen than mine to describe them to the life. In the next place, it seems to me, that the recalling so much wickedness to the memory must have an injurious effect on all readers, young and old. I have, therefore, merely dealt with his outward bearing, and with his acts; and these are sufficient. In reviving those events in our history in which Christians were foes to Christians, I have endeavoured to avoid all that can exasperate the

worst of all sentiments—the rancour of bigotry. It would be impossible to touch upon the career of Anne without adverting to those great principles which she contributed, during her short period of influence, to support; or to omit a grateful remembrance of those martyrs whom she secretly aided, and by whom her faith was, in return, strengthened and enlightened; and, in the episode of Bilney, unhappily too true, I have merely given an instance of miseries which were almost of daily occurrence in those melancholy times. That I desire to keep my own mind, and those of my readers, free from the infection of party-spirit, will be manifest to all who take the trouble of reading this work, when they perceive that I have endeavoured to do ample justice to the injured Katherine of Aragon—one of the brightest ornaments to any faith that this country has ever, with too much justice, commiserated."

In this passage, disavowing that portion of the task which might be more fitly undertaken by a male pen, Mrs. Thomson has unconsciously let us into the secret of her own merit. She has written this romance as no man could have written it; for it is, from first to last, in every page, the performance of a woman imbued with the best womanly feelings, touched by the griefs she describes,—refining the brutal, though not to the extinction of character, but simply to the avoidance of scenes of disgusting corruptness and cruelty,—offering apt and beautiful reflections upon the development of human motives and passions,—and hallowing the whole by a tone of gentleness and virtue, which has nevertheless infinite force in pointing the moral and adorning the tale.

Having offered these few remarks, we must come to our oft-repeated confession in regard to works of this class,—that we know not how or where to select quotations which might enable our readers to form their own judgment: the less to be regretted in this case, perhaps, as the book itself will soon be in the hands of the majority. We shall therefore only look out two or three brief examples; and first, a neat sketch of a garrulous old housekeeper, who has to communicate a disagreeable fact:—

"There is a happiness in recounting calamities and woes, in which no one was more qualified to expatiate than Mistress Judith. Hers was the soul of Eliab [?], the friend of the pious Job, transmigrated and incarnated in a portly female form. She related her alarm and anxieties with the minuteness of a connoisseur. The art of working up the disturbed and fretted spirit to agony, is one in which the sex are peculiarly adepts. Men pass over details. Women are too conscientious to spare their hearers one pang. Her narrative, without those accompaniments with which a memory of great precision invested it, might soon have been reduced to a few sentences. The good old lady retired to rest at night; and, in the due course of events, she arose in the morning. The loud but cracked sound of the prayer-bell in the court had rung to prayers. The chaplain was ready; the maidens were in the hall; the very churls and spit-boys were at their duties: but no Mistress Mildred, no Master Cuthbert appeared. 'And you sent to Alres-

ford? was there merry-making there?—you searched all Maidstone? could they have found refuge there?' asked Wyatt impatiently, raising himself to look reproachfully, almost fiercely, at Judith. 'Blessed Virgin!' returned the housekeeper; 'there were those who could, when questioned by Roger, confess that two of the steeds were stolen from the stable; and that, by break of day, Mistress Mildred and Master Cuthbert were seen riding over the drawbridge, and across the moor, towards London.'"

The mother of Anne Boleyn is thus spiritedly painted:—

"Lady Boleyn was a Howard; one of a brave and loyal, but aspiring, worldly race; in intellect superior; in rank, wealth, and present favour supereminent. Although now in the wane, the beauty of Lady Boleyn was still such as to strike with admiration those who admire the majestic more than the feminine attributes. It had been of so surpassing an order, as to favour the report that the vicious monarch had once been as devoted to the wife as he proved to be to the daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn. Be that as it might, from her beauty and connexions, the Lady Elizabeth Boleyn had long figured foremost in the court-revels, supplanted there only by her two lovelier daughters. Associated ever with the Lady Mary, the sister of Henry, and afterwards Queen of France, and Duchess of Brandon, she had long been the admiration of ambassadors, and the boast of the English aristocracy. Ambition, which, like the yellow tint in the autumnal leaf, succeeds the verdure of our summer of life, had now taken place of that personal vanity with which the flattered beauty parts, only to substitute in its place more dangerous passions. Lady Elizabeth was the personification of family pride. Every tone, feature, movement spoke that habitual and cherished feeling, cherished even as a duty. To know and to maintain one's station, were doctrines ever at her call; and were the more fostered by her, since, in marrying the descendant of a citizen, Sir Godfrey Boleyn, the mayor of London, she had impaired that line which had mingled its blood with that of princes; she had sullied a dignity which had hitherto known no abatement. How a lady of her character felt in such degradation it is impossible to conjecture. Be that as it may, she certainly, to do her justice, endeavoured to atone for so great an error, by, during her life—at least her prosperous life—visiting with the utmost contempt the low and lowly born; considering, and marking always to others, that she had done the greatest possible honour to her husband by becoming his wife; and aiming by all means, right or wrong, to raise 'her children,' for thus she ever designated them, to that station which, as her children, they were entitled to occupy."

The martyrdom of Bilney at Norwich, by Nix, the bishop of that see, is told with deep effect; but we shall only copy a few early pages of the description:—

"In a dungeon, at Norwich, sat the aged mother of Bilney, aged more from sorrow than time. She was watching the brief sleep of her

son, who lay extended upon a bed of straw. The cheek of the sleeping man was wan, and his form had been attenuated by long imprisonment; yet still his mother thought it a privilege to sit *there*; to clasp the emaciated hand, to wipe the pallid brow, and to administer to the parched lips water, when he should awake. A long history of sorrow was told in the look bent by the mother on her son. She was a widow, and he had been her pride. Humble in circumstances, she had strained her slender means to support him at Cambridge. There Bilney had ranked with the highest; there learned and there promulgated the doctrines of the powerful-minded Tindal. His life had been pure as his motives were holy. But such opinions as he and his friends openly professed could not be maintained in safety. Once before had Bilney been cast into a loathsome prison, where nothing but the doom of death—death in the flames—had been his earthly prospect. In a moment of weakness, his fortune had given way, partly from that dread of pain and ignominy which even the stoutest hearts feel; but chiefly from love to that mother who had implored him, on her knees, to abjure, and to be saved. He had abjured; and the parent who sat now beside him remembered the hour when, with a visage wild and wan, he had come back to her lowly dwelling and told her 'he was free.' But that hour brought no comfort; and she recalled the care-worn features, the seclusion from all society, the hopelessness, the partial aberration, which followed the breaking down of a conscientious mind. She recalled that now, and felt that she could better bear this than the sorrow it had then been her lot to sustain. She was a Christian. Oh, what a volume of consolation and of heroism are spoken in that one word! Perhaps the ancient superstitions might cling, like parasitic plants, around the firm fabric of her faith. It matters not. She knew the hope that never dieth, the hope that now sustained her son. She wept though, as she again pressed the long, thin fingers between her own. Those tears were given to the recollection of his infancy and youth; to the contrast which the minute and tenacious memory of a mother could draw between the unconsciousness and freedom of boyhood, the high hopes of his youth, and the state of that doomed criminal whose next remove was to be to the market-place and the flames, to the shouts of a reckless mob and the insults of an infuriated priesthood. Whilst thus she ran over the little circumstances of childhood, and the more thrilling events of his maturer age, the prisoner awoke."

A slight glance at the capital in those days shall conclude our extracts.

"It was on the morning after the execution of Bishop Fisher, that two females were seen descending the steps of the church of Saint Mary Overie, in Southwark, after the early service, which, in those days, was over before six o'clock. These persons were both concealed in their mufflers, and the younger and slighter of them wore a velvet mask. Her dress was homely,—being a tight gown of russet serge, with a wimple of white linen; and from the back of her head hung a long veil;—but her form was so commanding, her deportment so erect (the gentlewoman's mark), that several of the congregation, composed chiefly of respectable burghers of Southwark, turned back, as they passed, to mark in what direction the strangers bent their steps. The shorter but bulkier stranger was an aged woman, attired in a richer suit than her companion, yet bear-

ing no attributes of gentle birth, and distinguished chiefly by her consequential gait, and bustling yet not dignified manner. As they passed under the Saxon arch of the Barbican Tower, which in old times stood at the bridge-foot, on the southern side of the river, they looked up at the battlements of the edifice, commonly called Traitors' Gate, and stopped for a few minutes. The younger lady, with a slight shriek, drew her muffler closer, and hurried on; but her companion lingered, gazing, with that callous curiosity which has characterised the illiterate in all times, upon this spectacle of horror. The heads of those unhappy wretches who had been slaughtered by the ruthless decree of despotism, stuck on pikes, appeared in view. It was a glorious morning in June. The sky above was of a deep clear blue, unsullied, in those days of wood-fires and of scanty population, by that dense mass of smoke which now hangs like a cloud over the metropolis. Birds in cages, on the houses which stood on either side of London Bridge, sang cheerily; there were sounds of cheerful employment echoing through the arches of the bridge from the river below. The forests, which anciently covered the face of the country where now the Kent-road winds, were not so far cleared, but that a stray bird or two, fresh on the wing from the blithesome country, flew to the chimney-tops;—unconscious representatives of the serenity of those remoter regions where ignorance and peace were united. Market-women, hastening in with eggs and poultry, some with flowers, and looking all bloom, and happy in their business, stopped for a few instants before the Traitors' Gate of the Southwark Barbican, then reverently crossed themselves and hurried on; for the rural population were as yet all Catholics, and honoured the holy martyrs whose remains they now beheld. Distant bells, from the city-churches, rang out merry peals; for scarcely a day passed in those times but some scene of diversion among rich and poor was enacted; and the festival of Midsummer, on the day following which the bishop had been beheaded, had left its usual train of religious observances and of joyous sports. All around was in unison with that presiding benevolence which wills that its creatures should 'live, not die,'—rejoice, not mourn;—but there stood those ghastly memorials of the martyred Christians,—Christians of all persuasions; for none were spared—there gleamed the sightless eye-balls,—there, gnashing as in execration, were the fixed teeth, speaking the tale of life's last agonies! The river reflected the clear blue of the heavens; and, as it washed the foundations of busy streets which came down to its edge, and was lost, to the eastward, amid the fleets which moored beneath Old London Bridge, the scene presented a smiling aspect. The crafts of the country-people, coming into the great city with timber or other burdens, were in many instances garnished with boughs of green birch, appropriate to Midsummer; whilst the merry boatmen wore in their round caps tassels of the homely yet graceful fennel; or sprays of St. John's wort, in honour of that apostle, whose life and precepts were devoted to Christian love. There were the remains of bonfires in the street across the bridge; for, on the vigils of festival-days, in this beautiful season, it was the custom, as old Stow relates, to make 'bonfires' in the streets after sunset. There were benches set out; and hospitality was mingled with gratitude to the God of the coming harvest, whose mercies the pious extolled, and whose divine forgiveness they imitated. Tables

were spread, and viands shared among neighbours; and the wine-cup went round, and the song was heard, and the kindly wish was proffered and returned. Then did men reconcile old feuds, denoting by the bonfires, as they called them, that old animosities were cleansed away,—a custom borrowed, as it was said, from the ancients, who at the summer solstice were wont to usher in their new year with a sacrifice of angry passions, and a symbolical purification of the air from pestilential vapours,—each man seizing a fire-brand, and scattering the ashes to the wind, as typical of the dispersion of evil. Alas! would that in our holier and happier times there were some termination of heart-sickening jealousies and of inextinguishable hatred!—that we could learn from those, thus taught the beauty of mercy, to forgive! Oh, for some holy vigil wherein to consecrate to oblivion the memory of wrongs, the errors of our brethren, the repentment of our own sinful hearts! London Bridge, anciently of timber, but washed away by the river, and having its Barbican at one end, and its chapel of Saint Thomas à Becket at the other, presented a singular scene as the two females before referred to walked along its causeway. It consisted before the fire of London of nineteen arches, underneath which the current of the river—erroneously supposed to have been turned from its natural course by the building of this bridge—ran with great violence. On either side of the bridge were placed substantial houses of many stories, not unlike some of those picturesque tenements in the Old Town of Edinburgh, with gable ends towards the river. Beyond these, to the eastward, rose many churches, amongst which the tall spire of Old Saint Paul's, flanked with two pinnacles, rose pre-eminent;—as yet, these edifices, white and in good preservation, were contrasted beautifully with the darker houses of the meaner streets, and still more beautifully with the blue sky, their back-ground. The bridge, at that time the sole communication between London and Southwark, was, even at this early hour, the scene of much traffic; but the heavy waggons and carts which the wants of a luxurious population render now essential, were then unknown, and the busy scene had an air of peace, a freedom from noise, which Londoners may never hope to know again. All was as serene as if the axe had not lately fallen on its victim within the enclosure of yon grim tower,—all was as unmoved by resentment, or seemed to be, as if the God in the heavens above them approved the deeds which had sent the mangled heads to garnish the Barbican;—there was in England in this age, as in France during the revolution, an undervaluing of life, an apathy, even to the crimes of which the silent spectators might be the next victims,—that too mournfully betrayed the long-accustomed habit of seeing men slaughtered, and innocent blood shed, at the fiat of what was called justice. White lilies in garlands, with roses, St. John's wort, orpin, and birch, were hung on every door; and the maidens, whose duty exacted such a care, were seen replenishing these decorations from the baskets of the market-women, as they passed. Lamps burned with oil were also placed over the doorways, and often on branches of iron; and the lights now expiring, still glimmered amongst wreaths of fennel and of birch. The two female strangers, having passed the Traitors' Gate, slackened their pace."

As we cannot extricate from the narrative, so as to be intelligible, any of the acute remarks and expressive traits with which the entire picture is pointed and invigorated, we now bid

its estimable author farewell, and wish her a new-year's joy on having accomplished a work which we can so cordially recommend to all her sex; not, however, excluding those of a rougher nature; though it seems to us to have more peculiar charms for our fair countrywomen.

La Syrie sous le Gouvernement de Méhémet-Ali jusqu'en 1840. Par M. Ferdinand Perrier, aide-de-camp de Soliman-Pacha pendant les Campagnes de 1838, 1839, et 1840. Svo. Paris, Arthur Bertrand. 1842.

WE have just received this work, and can recommend it as a well-arranged and complete manual of every thing concerning the condition of Syria and its population, full of curious information relating to a country now the subject of so much interest, and collected by a person who had by his position every opportunity of being well informed himself, and who shews a disposition to tell what he knows with as little prejudice as possible. It is no attempt to make an amusing narrative or a large book; but the manners and customs and social condition of the people, the resources of the country, the vices or advantages of the system under which it has been governed, the different classes and tribes who inhabit it, are described in as few words and with as little ostentation as possible. Yet with all this, to us the book is more amusing, certainly much more interesting, than any of the common run of voyages and travels, because we feel a dependence upon what is told, and are not reminded at every phrase that the book was made "to sell." If any thing, we should be inclined to quarrel with the minuteness of M. Perrier's information on some subjects which were certainly never intended to be known beyond the walls of Turkish seraglios.

The volume contains twenty-three chapters, divided into two parts. In the first part, Syria is considered as a whole; its history and topography in earlier times, as well as under the Turks and Egyptians, is briefly traced, and an exact and sufficiently comprehensive account is given (illustrated with numerous anecdotes and examples) of its government and administration, jurisprudence, condition of property, commerce, &c. in modern times, as well as of the religious customs, public and private manners, superstitions, &c. of the Turco-Arabic population. In the second part, Syria is treated with respect to the numerous different tribes of its aboriginal population; and we have interesting accounts of the manners and customs of the different sects of Druses, Metualis, Avarsians, Ismaelites, Kurds and Yezidis, Samaritans, Maronites, &c., with an account of the public history and private life of the celebrated Emir Beschir, and a brief narrative of the revolts of the tribes of Mount Libanus in 1840.

Having said thus much of the general character of this comprehensive, and therefore useful volume, we proceed to give a few of the extracts most characteristic of the style of its author. The following is a fair example of making money of an official appointment. Ismael-Bey, the cousin of Ibrahim, was governor of Aleppo.

"This governor bought on his own account all the monopolies of the city of Aleppo. Few individuals offered themselves to bid against the governor-general, whose agents were well known: and thus he obtained them at a low price. Besides being the only butcher, the only fruitseller, &c., his authority gave this governor the means of realising other gains. At Aleppo they relate thus the manner in which

he put off his produce. Having sown an immense field with radishes, and another with water-melons, he sent for the retailers of these kinds of legumes and fruits. 'For how much do you sell the radishes a piece, great and little?' asked the bey. 'Three paras,' answered the dealers. Ismael immediately sends one of his mamelukes with the merchants to make them buy the whole field of radishes at three paras a piece, and all the radishes are counted one by one. It is true that Ismael-Bey, in order to insure a sale for those who buy of him, allows no other seller to come into the market as long as any of his produce remains on hand."

Turkish justice.—"At Antioch, in 1767, the pasha of the province was walking alone in the bazars, in order that he might be incognito: he observed a dealer in furs who appeared sorrowful, and whose stock in trade consisted only in an immense quantity of foxes' tails. 'What is the cause of your sorrow?' asked the pasha. 'Alas! master,' replied the dealer, 'you see your servant cruelly cheated by an Armenian, who has sold me these foxes' tails very dear, assuring me that I should have a very advantageous market for them. But I have been three months without selling one, and I am now ruined.' 'By the beard of the sultan, my master,' replied the pasha, 'I will cause thee to sell them at a high price, if thou do as I command thee. Thou shalt not sell a single tail for less than 300 piastres, and in a few days thou shalt not have one left.' Next day the pasha ordered the whole corporation of the Armenian merchants to be summoned to appear immediately before him, requiring at the same time, under the most severe penalties, that each of them should have the tail of a fox sewed to the bottom of his robe, as a mark of disgrace for the scandalous manner in which they traded. There was soon a crowd of buyers at the shop of the dealer in furs, who sold all his tails very dear, and who would not give one to the man who had cheated him under an exorbitant price."

Domestic etiquette.—"The father, or chief of a family, enjoys always a respect and an authority almost unlimited; the children are brought up in the most entire deference and submission to the will of their father; they shew him a respect which neither age, nor social position, nor any circumstance of life, can lessen. The son cannot sit down before his father without permission; he only speaks in his presence when questioned, makes an honour of serving him and anticipating his least wishes. The father begins only to forego his paternal authority when his son is married and settled; but the respect and deference of the son remain invariably the same. We have a singular example in Ibrahim Pasha and his father Mehemet Ali Pasha. In the hierarchy of the Ottoman empire, as pasha of Mecca and the holy places, Ibrahim is the greatest pasha in the empire, and all the others ought to rise at his approach. In order not to be wanting in what he owes to his son as dignitary, Mehemet Ali Pasha, who as father ought not to rise at his approach, always waits for him standing, enters at the same time with him at any public ceremony or great presentation, as, for instance, at Ibrahim's return from a long campaign. With the exception of these rare occasions, Ibrahim is always completely effaced before his father; he fulfils towards him all the duties of a submissive and respectful son, kisses his hands, waits his permission to sit down, and, even with his permission, he rarely smokes in his presence from respect."

A repast in the harem.—"The evening repast

in generally taken in the harem. The wives serve their *sidi* (master) with a refinement of cares and attentions which would be considered base and servile in the West, they are so contrary to our manners. The Orientals, who eat with their fingers, always wash their hands before and after the meal; among the rich, three slaves bring the water-basin and the towels. It is the wives who perform this duty in the harem; one of them arrives first with a richly embroidered napkin, which she holds closely folded in her hands, and then, bending down with her knee on the ground, she throws it unfolded on the knees of the master. Another carries the water-basin and the vase to receive the water; kneels before him, holding the basin within his reach, and pours the water a drop at a time on his hands. A third afterwards presents him a new napkin to dry himself, and sometimes sprinkles rosewater on his beard. The master sits alone, or with one or two of his wives whom he chooses to invite, whilst the others use their best endeavours to divert and amuse him, by singing or playing on some instruments. The Mussulman ladies of a certain rank disdain to dance, and leave that exercise, which they consider ignoble, to the *almées*, who make a trade of it."

We have only quoted two or three of the amusing traits of this book. The serious parts of it would require a more detailed notice than we can at present give it, consistently with the other calls upon us; and as the price is very moderate, we shall do better in referring our readers to the original.

Memoir of Capt. Edward Pelham Brenton, R.N., C.B.; with Sketches of his Professional Life, and Exertions in the cause of Humanity, as connected with the Children's Friend Society, &c., Observations upon his "Naval History" and "Life of the Earl of St. Vincent." By his Brother, Vice-Admiral Sir Jahleel Brenton, Bart., K.C.B. London, Nisbet and Co. 1842.

THE early professional and private life of this excellent person offers nothing remarkable for us to notice; nor does his diary, though breathing a spirit of fervent devotion, require more particular remark than a tribute to its piety and unworldliness. His benevolent exertions for the suppression of juvenile vagrancy make his public character, and, we may add, his most philanthropic and Christian life. Yet even into their details we do not feel ourselves called to enter, after all the discussion which they have undergone, and that clash of opinions which led, as we think very unfortunately, to the overthrow of the Society founded by Capt. Brenton, and carried on during some years to the great advantage of the wretched class for whose sake it was instituted. We had many opportunities of examining into the system, and witnessing its beneficial effects—the salvation of the abandoned, and the reformation of the delinquent,—and it was with sorrow we saw, what we considered to be, a mistaken notion of its principles and proceedings taken up, and so powerfully propagated, that even the best intentions could not stand before the outcry, and the design was obliged to be given up for want of sufficient support. We impugn not the motives nor the conduct of those who adopted this hostility. They believed in certain representations made by parties who had been objects of the Society's care and bounty; and, upon the data thus furnished, they hastened violently to arraign and bitterly to condemn the institution; and they had influence enough on the public mind to produce the consequence

to which we have alluded. We repeat, that we must deem this to have been a grievous error, and the result a national misfortune; but nothing could stem the tide of popular impression, and the truly good and charitable Capt. Brenton saw all his labour of love overturned. He had nothing left him but the consciousness of rectitude and humanity, of zeal in serving his fellow-creatures, and of ardent efforts to perform what would be acceptable to their and his Maker. Whilst thus employed,—among other journals, including the *Morning Post*, *Morning Herald*, and the *Literary Gazette*, most favourable to the cause,—the *Times* of January 11, 1833, thus spoke of the Society, its founder, and friends.

"In our last we gave a brief account of the proceedings of the Society for the Suppression of Juvenile Vagrancy, in which it was agreed to send 20 boys to the Cape of Good Hope, to be employed in agriculture. Captain Brenton, the honorary secretary, has since published an address, dated December 28, detailing the excellent plan which that gentleman has persevered in, through a host of obstacles which few would have been found to contend with; which plan has at length been partially taken up by the government. On this, as on many other occasions, were prevention and foresight to take the place of punishment and delay, incalculable expense might be saved to the country; and, what is of tenfold more consequence, crowds of our youth who, from no original fault of their own, become criminals, might be rendered useful and valuable members of society, either abroad or at home. We take from Captain Brenton's last address to the public, the two following appalling but convincing statements:—'At the Midsummer Session, at the Old Bailey,' says the statement, '33 little boys, between ten and thirteen years of age, were sentenced to various terms of transportation. When their time (on board the hulks) is expired, they will be accomplished thieves, after having taken their degrees in the university of infamy, and will be ready for any desperate work which treason or rebellion may suggest; and thus the gangs of full-grown villains are constantly recruited by the operation of the law, and thieves are educated at the expense of government, at a greater cost than it would take to maintain an honest man.' The other remark is this:—'There are now confined in the prisons of the metropolis between six and seven hundred children and young persons, who might be made to earn their own living, instead of being kept at the public expense. The prisoners in Coldbath Fields cost at the rate of 16*l.* each per annum.' With such facts as these staring us in the face, is not that man a public benefactor of the highest class, who undertakes the mitigation of so great an evil? and are not his countrymen criminal in a high degree, who withhold the very scanty means by which only a few individuals might complete and consolidate so great a work? Renowned as this country is for its numberless public and private charities, it argues a sad want of discrimination, that one of so valuable a nature as that which Captain Brenton has been so zealously labouring to establish, should linger from want of funds. We trust, however, that the time is come when this public reproach will no longer exist, but that the sanction at length bestowed upon Captain Brenton's efforts by the Colonial Department will open the eyes of the whole community to its importance; and that we shall no longer witness infancy handed over to crime, which might, by other methods, be trained up to adult virtue and utility."

Unhappily for the plan so warmly advocated, the *Times*, at a later period, pinned its faith to the statements of the individuals who came forward to charge the Society with we know not what crimes—kidnapping, selling into slavery, and other atrocities—and was one of the main engines in destroying the institution; so potent is the press for good or evil. The effect upon the feelings of Captain Brenton were said to have been fatal to him; and many fallacious rumours concerning it were set afloat on the occasion of his sudden death. It will therefore, we are sure, be consolatory to those who were led into opposition to his views and the management of the Society, as well as to the country at large, to hear, from his gallant and estimable brother's mouth, a true account of his lamented decease.

"Having now (says Sir Jahleel) gone through the various subjects on which I have been induced to offer my remarks upon the character and conduct of my brother, and in my endeavours to vindicate his memory from the charges which had been brought against him, which I have sought to do in perfect charity with every one, it only remains for me to give an account of the unexpected termination of his valuable life—for valuable it must be allowed to have been, even by those who differed with him in sentiments and views—and to submit the whole statement to the deliberate judgment and sentence of his brother officers and of his country. Various cruel reports were circulated at the period of his death, as to the immediate cause of it, highly injurious to his memory: these, we trust, have been effectually contradicted by the verdict of the coroner's inquest; but we have it in our power to give a particular detail, by which the cheerful and sane state of his mind to the very last is fully confirmed. On the 5th of April, 1839, the day preceding his death, he began his last letter to me; but as the postscript was written on the following morning, it is to be considered as written on the very day he died. He was deeply interested in the progress of an institution, then in its infancy, of which he had been doing the duty of honorary secretary—the Society for the Relief of the Shipwrecked Mariners and Fishermen. It was proposed to have a dinner, for the promotion of its funds, at the London Tavern; and Sir R. Peel had kindly consented to take the chair. Capt. Brenton was a member of a committee of management for making the necessary arrangements. The following are extracts from the letter:—'My peregrinations to the London Tavern to-day were deeply interesting, in spite of the snow, rain, and sleet. I was there from 11 to 2, and well employed all the time. The circular on the other side is for the west end of the town (the other is in the hands of the merchants). I hope we shall have one hundred stewards at least: the whole expense to each of these functionaries will be 1*l.* I put down your name and my own, *cum multis aliis*, pour encourager les autres, and I think it will have a good effect. You may have double allowance of dinner, if you like. We think in the city the room will be a bumper. Sir Robert is decidedly popular there. But if you don't like to be a steward, you need not, though I think you ought to be; but never mind that. I have got a short and sweet letter to-night from Mr. Abbiss, desiring my acceptance of a fifty-pound Bank-of-England note for the shipwrecked fishermen and mariners. He gives no other date but the 5th of April; and it came by post. There is no such name in the Red Book; and I must thank him in the public papers. I am on the dinner-committee. We sit at the London Tavern every

day, as I told you, from 11 to 4, Sundays excepted. One or the other of us is to be there. We are going on very well; nothing can be better. You will see my advertisement in the morning papers to-morrow; and if you are fond of hearing me abused, read the *Times* of to-day. But you must keep one ear for my story. The boy Trubshaw has, I believe, done us great good by his overcharged malignity. I feel no sort of uneasiness about it, and only laugh at it. I am, as you may suppose, very busy; but your orders shall be attended to, as far as I am able. I have not any papers by me, but I will tell Richards to send you some to-morrow. Mr. C. says you must put brown paper upon your rheumatism, sciatic limbs. Adieu for to-night—I am very tired—up at a quarter past six. I am a poor man with a large family, but certainly not out of work. What a nice day this has been!

'In frost and snow his fingers he'll blow,
And wish the cold weather away.'
(An old school-song.)

I begin to think now I shall see my head on the Italian boys' boards, either as the kidnapping captain, or the philoprogenitive.' (His bust had been just finished by Mr. Behnes, to which he thus playfully alluded.) He concludes, 'Adieu, affectionately yours, EDWARD.'—On the following morning he adds this postscript: 'I send this off before eight; if any thing should come after breakfast, I will write again.' He went at eleven o'clock to the London Tavern, and remained there till four; returned home by five, and sat down to dinner with Mrs. Brenton half an hour after. She describes him to have been remarkably cheerful during the evening, and having his tea at the usual hour. But at half-past eight he complained of being unwell; he retired to bed immediately; and his medical adviser was sent for, who came directly, but only in time to see him breathe his last, which he did before nine o'clock. In the diary for the last day of the preceding year there is a passage which makes it evident that my lamented brother was not without some anticipations of a sudden call, and accordingly prepared for it. He says: 'Thus ends this year. And now let me return my most humble and hearty thanks to the great Giver of all good things for his infinite mercy to me and mine through the eventful course of it. May his divine grace remain in our souls, and render us grateful to Him whose indulgent care demands all our praises and thanksgivings. May we ever bear in mind, that our summons from hence into eternity may arrive at a moment when we do not expect it. Let us, then, be prepared; and may the same Almighty arm support us in our last moments, as it has done from the beginning; and this I beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our great Redeemer and Advocate. Amen.' We believe this sincere and fervent prayer to have been most graciously heard and answered; and that the pious and faithful supplicant was permitted to exercise and enjoy his means of usefulness and exemption from any great degree of suffering to the last hour of his life. We have been particular in giving extracts from his letters and memoranda which, under other circumstances, would appear trifling and irrelevant; but, as they indicate a mind at ease and at peace, they will enable the reader to appreciate the reports in the newspapers according to their just value, and to come to the conclusion, that the faithful servant of God, having done his work here, was called away to enter into the joy of his Lord."

We have nothing to subjoin to this interesting extract; except to say, from personal knowledge, that in our heart we are convinced of the singular beneficence of Capt. Brenton's design

and exalted sense of duty, which induced him to bestow such unceasing pains on its working—that it was in the end misunderstood, on some points distorted and exaggerated—that it fell before a delusion—and that the re-establishment of a similar institution would be an act of national policy and Christian charity.

The Sporting Sketch-Book: a Series of characteristic Papers by the most distinguished Sporting Writers of the day. Illustrated with Eleven Engravings. Edited by J. W. Carleton, Esq. 8vo, pp. 200. How and Parsons.

THE dashing and characteristic engravings that adorn this volume are enough to make it a favourite with the sporting world; but its spirited contents, by a variety of able hands, "capped" by the Editor's own capital articles, complete its claims, and recommend it to be shelved, quite opposite to the common acceptance of the word, in every room where a votary to the healthy and invigorating exercise of the field can be found. If solitary, it will excite his energies; if social, it will rouse and delight his circle. Emulation will grow out of its fervent pages; and hunting, shooting, angling, in Europe and America, will receive a fillip from Mr. Carleton's *Sketch-book*. Nor will we interfere with its office in this way by invading its tales, its songs, its anecdotes, its useful hints, or its enthusiastic view-hollas. It is a hard frost, there is snow falling in abundance, the rivers are ice, the fields are white, the mountains are inaccessible—there's nothing but wild fowl—and we, envious of the sports which this book seems itself to enjoy, it is penned with such a gusto—will try to illustrate it by a damper—"Hints to Anglers;" supposed to be written by Dean Swift:—

"It is absolutely necessary to go out of town after the month of August, and to do a little sporting talk when you return. Therefore, if your feelings are known to be too refined to admit of your firing off a loaded gun, you will have to adopt the 'gentle art' as the object of your 'fancy.' Angling has certainly this advantage, that although you may find no enjoyment in the actual practice of it, you may, notwithstanding, claim a sort of sentimental attachment to it, founded on its rural nature. If this be your view, you should gather a quotation or two from old Izaak, about daisied meads and honeysuckle-hedgerows, which will, doubtless, be found somewhere, or in the moon, if you turn her over. It may not be amiss to learn his Song to the Milkmaid; and if you can, immediately after, favour your friends with her reply, with something like the appropriate simplicity of manner and action, it will add to their entertainment. But perhaps your attachment to fishing is more rationally *platonic*, and you agree with us, that its chief attraction lies in the ability it gives to enjoy a vast deal more of good eating and drinking than one could manage without it. It is delightful even to think of the breakfast one makes when the dear girls remind us, as they sweeten our tea, or help us to mufin, that we are going from home, and don't know when we may be back, and thus induce us, 'nothing loath,' to draw a little upon the anticipated appetite to be created by our intended exertions. Rolls, eggs, chops, fish, ham, coffee, and cogniac—how satisfactory are one's feelings after such a climax! Having acted upon Captain Dalgetty's campaigning principle, and 'garrisoned the fortress as if for three days,' put the remainder in the basket beside the fowls, tongue, sherry, and bottled porter. They will be a capital source

of consolation, if you have no other sport. If you think you may get wearied, we need hardly recommend you to take a portable stool with you. You are likely to meet with none but toad-stools at the water-side. Of course you would wish to look knowing: therefore, wear a French jelly-bag cap, with a long hanging crown and tassel, and put your lines and flies inside. If the points of the latter trouble your head a little, they will be the less likely to be blown away when you lift your cap to get them out: and if they do drop out, and fall in the water, they will not be altogether lost, but will serve to bait the stream for you. You can't have too many pockets to your fishing-jacket: it looks business-like. And as flies are plaguy catchy things, and will be hooking every thing but what they ought, if they now and then fasten in your coat, it needs only a slit with one of the numerous blades of your sportman's knife, and they are free again. Your ardour will no doubt hurry you to the scene of action at your best pace. This will be a little painful so soon after so redoubtable a breakfast; but if you should be overpowered with heat and perspiration, you have only to hasten into the water, and commence business, and you will soon feel a grateful chill, as much allied to rheumatism and ague as to heat and fever. We may here venture an opinion, that pumps of japanned leather would be the best thing to wade in; for, besides the appearance (which is something, whatever people may pretend), instead of being injured, like other leather, by water, it is the common application for renovating the 'patent;' and if the high-lows admit the water, they approach the nearer to the Irishman's brogues, and let it the quicker out again. You are not so young, we daresay, as ever to ask leave to angle any where; because, if you are refused, you cannot so well afterwards fish (which of course you mean to do) without a deliberate trespass. Whereas, if you have never asked, and are caught walking coolly into a preserve, it is only a mistake (from ignorance); and on being turned off, you are no worse than if you had asked, and been refused. By the by, in such a case never give your name. We rather think it is not wanted for any good. We need not recommend you to buy all the tackle you can pick up. You may not be able to foresee that you shall want it, but then 'keep a thing for seven years, and you will find a use for it.' On the other hand, if you throw away a chance of buying, you will be sure to imagine, next time you are unsuccessful, that the scarlet and sky-blue insect which you let slip might now have been the very ticket for fish. And who can say it would not? But as to carrying all your tackle with you, that would be out of the question. And if it were not, you would not be such a spooney as that slow old foghorn your uncle, whom you have seen laying out his flies, and looking over his rod and tackle, before starting to the water, as if he were not sure they were his own. If you find, on coming to the river-side, that your line is not looped, or, perhaps, that your reel or fishing-book, flies and all, are forgotten at home, the case is not altogether hopeless, but may be remedied by a walk of five or six miles and back; or, at the worst, if you lose that day, you may possibly be able to return the next, provided the weather suit your purpose. '*Carpe diem*,' was an ancient attempt at a wretched pun, but does not apply here, as we were speaking of trout. You will find it delightful to take a party of your acquaintance with you to the water. They will amuse you with talking and

romping, pushing each other into it, and the like: and if you chance to catch a fish, they will cheer you on to greater exertions, which, of course, ought to be crowned with greater success. They may also be made useful by being sent into the river, some above and some below your position, to herd the fish towards you, so as you may be sure of their being brought to see your tackle, when, of course, your skill will do the rest. Take care, however, not to be taken in by mistaking pebbles, wickedly thrown by your friends, for fish rising; nor betray undue anxiety by hurrying to the spot, and casting carefully over the supposed ripple; for this might excite their ill-timed merriment, and would gratify them by the undeserved success of what is a very poor joke. You may not, perhaps, consider it worth your while to waste your time by fishing during rain, or soon after it; seeing that the water being then discoloured, the fish will not distinguish between your beautifully made flies and the natural ones. This is a disadvantage you will not be subject to in clear water, in which you may see that the fish acknowledge the rareness of your imitations by a backward and bashful respect, and might be tempted to a nearer inspection of them—if they did not see the sting at their tails. If you see an experienced elderly gentleman catch a good fish, that is the place for you. Go to it immediately, the closer to him the better. His fish may have relations looking for it. The gentleman may be a little crusty, but it is mere jealousy. When you begin, hold your breath, lest you frighten the fish. If you do occasionally draw it the harder in consequence, still it will be only at intervals. Slip stooping along the edge of the bank; and as your head and body will naturally incline in a graceful curve over the water, extend your left hand cunningly behind you over the bank. This will serve to preserve your balance, and may chance, upon occasion, to save you from falling into the water, by enabling you to catch a bush, if there should be one just in the way. Throw always a very long line. That is a point of emulation amongst crack hands when necessary. If you feel any difficulty about it, and be apt to catch the ground, or get it into troublesome knots, or coil it about your own body, these may, perhaps, be avoided by every time carrying back the fly and line to their utmost stretch, and laying them out straight on the ground behind you, and then taking up the rod, and whipping them over your head. But this mode is not infallible; and it requires that patience and perseverance said to be possessed by the true angler only. When you come amongst trees, it may be well to give your rod and line a free sweep round your head, in order to see whether they are within reach of your hook, and to clear the way for subsequent casts—if your tackle be strong enough. If by this means you become hooked in the branches (which may happen), you will get free at once by a smart pull, and save time. If you don't find this method answer, you will adopt some other next time. Use a large, strong rod. As it is exercise that is wanted by the gentlemanly angler, it will give you considerably more than a small one. It will also enable you to play the fish, as it is called, by suspending him beneath heaven and earth, like the sign of the gilded rod and trout, which first excited your piscatory propensities. Take a line of corresponding weight, and be sure to make it tell on the water at every throw; else how are the fish to be made aware of your being there, so as to give you the desired opportunity? Whip the fish out of the water at once, if they are heavy

enough to be worth while. If you succeed in doing so, you make sure of them, which is the essence of the business. If they won't come, you will at least break off and get away yourself, which is the next consideration; for we need not say it would be both troublesome and dangerous to be caught against your will by Mr. Scales, instead of catching him. If the fish make a rush away with the line, of course you know how to stop him. Seize the line with your hand, and pull him up. It's odds but you prove the stronger, if nothing gives way. There are some impertinent people to be met with: that's a fact. If any such ask whether you caught all your fish yourself, you need not give a direct answer (unless you did), but may ask, in return, if he thinks you didn't, or the like. If you have been accompanied by a skilful friend, who, through some unaccountable luck, has been more successful than you, it is more easily managed, and you may, perhaps, get the credit of an equal share of the whole take, by letting fall such an expression as 'We caught so and so.' If you have had only your own individual exertions to trust to, and these by singular bad luck have enabled you to capture but one, or perhaps a couple of young and inexperienced thumbkins, it is surely consistent with the strictest propriety to say you have caught 'a few' for you cannot call them more. Never allow any brother of the angle to out-crow you on the subject of his piscatory exploits. Even although he should produce more fish in his basket than you, yet remember not to forget (which fishermen are sometimes apt to do) those of large size which you hooked (and that is really the catching of them), although they were afterwards lost by some mere accident or other, just when you intended to get them out of the water. If you have fished the whole day without a rise, it is a sign that the fish are not taking. You may safely put off your sport till another opportunity."

There is a neat account of Prince Albert and his beagles, with a portrait of the Prince on horseback, and a sterling paper on Newmarket, also by Mr. Carleton, from which we conclude with a brief touch on the Jockey Club.

"Here necessarily stands, in the strongest relief, the Jockey Club—a body of gentlemen associated for a very noble purpose,—collectively and individually of unquestionable honour and integrity, but not exempt from the possibility of backsliding—as shewn in the instance that once compelled them to purge their society of the presence of the first subject in the realm. The turf—infinite the most important of our national sports, if, indeed, from the vast speculations to which it now gives birth, it deserve not to be classed among schemes of a higher character than those of mere amusement,—is virtually in the hands of that body. From it has emanated a code of rules, very excellent as far as they apply, by which the whole detail of racing in Great Britain is influenced and regulated. That they tend to produce good order, and essentially to serve the best interests of racing, I cordially bear testimony; and hence the anxiety I feel lest any chance may weaken their present conventional weight. Let them, above all things, eschew apathy and contempt of little sinings: though ease, and emancipation from trouble, may be the privileges of their order as legislators on, and executors of, the laws of racing, they must not hope

"—somno et inertibus horis
Ducere sollicita jucunda obliuia vitæ."

Natural History of Man. By James Cowles Pritchard, M.D., F.R.S., &c. No. 1. 8vo, pp. 48. London, H. Baillière.

ANY thing from the pen of Dr. Pritchard must be interesting to the general reader, and welcome to the man of science. But it is peculiarly so in the case of a *Natural History of Man*, to which subject, with the exception of Lawrence's *Lectures* and the Dr.'s own productions, we have no book specially devoted in this country, while they abound on the Continent. It is also a remarkable fact, that all the most eminent works on this subject, published in France, advocate the same fundamental principle, that there are several distinct species of man. Dr. P.'s work will be (while it illustrates the history and character of the different varieties) one consecutive and inductive answer to this unbiological and unphilosophical conception; and it is with mingled pride and pleasure that we follow him, as far as he has yet gone, in this argument of love, which he treats with that clearness and luminosity which must fully prove to all minds that think rightly upon the subject, how uncalled for and unjust is that calumny so frequently brought by our rival labourers in science on the other side of the channel, that in this country the man of science dare not write but according to the received views of things,—either from his position, as was advanced against Dr. Buckland, or from fear or the base love of profit.

The able author halts a little, at starting, upon the intricate subject of limiting the possession of an immaterial principle to man. "The phenomena of feeling, of desire and aversion, of love and hatred, of fear and revenge, and the perception of external relations, manifested in the life of brutes, imply not only through the analogy which they display to the human faculties, but likewise from all that we can learn or conjecture of their particular nature, the superadded existence of a principle distinct from the mere mechanism of material bodies." He then afterwards says, "There may be no rational grounds for the ancient dogma, that the souls of the lower animals were imperishable, like the soul of man: this is, however, a problem which we are not called upon to discuss; and we may venture to conjecture that there may be immaterial essences of divers kinds, and endowed with various attributes and capabilities." The phrenologists get over this difficulty by the fact that man has an innate idea of a Supreme Being, and with it the consequent attributes of a reflective and praying consciousness.

But, this difficulty passed, the argument marches on with an even step over the most delightful fields of investigation. First comes the cosmopolite character of man; then the reaction of the elements upon himself, and the difference between species and varieties and hybridity, as more particularly illustrated by the vegetable kingdom. All these subjects are treated of in the most interesting manner, and with curious illustrations.

The next subject is that of mixed races of men, at the head of which are placed the Griquas or Griqua Hottentots, a tribe of mixed origin descended from the Dutch colonists of South Africa on one side, and from the aboriginal Hottentots on the other.

The next example of an entirely new and intermediate stock, produced and multiplied by itself, are the Cafresos, sprung originally from a mixture of native Americans with the negroes imported from Africa. The third are the Papuas, a mixture of the Negro and Malay varieties, drawings of each of which are given;

and to which the author might have added the Somalis of Yemen, who are black, but with European features, and have long frizzled hair. In fact, the well-established circumstance, that all races of men can propagate *inter se*—that the progeny is capable of reproduction—and that intermediate races of men exist and are propagated, ought to be sufficient to the naturalist to enable him, with the scriptural authority, to proclaim them as descended from the same parents, and as capable of transmitting hereditarily peculiarities derived from climate, habits, and other circumstances.

The phenomena of variation in tribes of animals are illustrated by the changes undergone in the characters of the numerous animals transported by the Spaniards to America, and by the various breeds of domestic animals in the old continent; both of which subjects are replete with curious information to which we need only call attention; for we are sure that the work will be extensively read, not only on account of its own value and interest, but also from its being a much better book for a young person's subscription, than many of the monthly publications now issuing from the press. It has, however, it is to be regretted, been published at too high a price to compete with its cheaper and more seductive rivals.

Bartlett's Index Geologicus. One large sheet on linen, with case. Van Voorst, London.

A TABULAR view—for such this is, rather than an index—of the present state of geology, was a great desideratum. The science has grown up with such rapid steps, that it requires the most powerful attention and a clear memory to have even a portion of its facts and bearings at the fingers' ends when required. But to draw up such a tabular view was in reality an enterprise of very great labour, and needed a degree of skill and patience which only the initiated can understand. In addition to this, as the science is now constituted, a tabular view, in which the distribution of metals and minerals in igneous and metamorphic rocks and stratified deposits shall be strictly regarded, while the great and minor epochs of animal and vegetable life are carefully delineated, is also a philosophic view of the whole subject, and demanded as much judgment in the generalisations, as it did skill in the arrangement of the details. In all these points, Mr. Bartlett's Index far surpasses all that have hitherto been published; and in one point, the study of the economy of circumstances connected with the physiology and characters of extinct and extant races in their relation to the production of the different minerals, metals, oxides, sulphurets, &c. presents much that is new and interesting. It is altogether an admirable *tableau* and a minute index of the present state of geological science. The carrying down the table of rock-formations in a slanting direction, so as to leave room for the additional mineral substances, without infringing upon the space for organic remains, is especially ingenious.

The Dublin Journal of Medical Science; including the latest Discoveries in Medicine, Surgery, and the collateral Sciences. No. 60, Jan. 1842. Dublin, Hodges and Smith.

THIS excellent medical periodical has now reached its 60th number, and continues to distinguish itself by the value of its original papers, as well as by the activity with which it watches the universal progress of the healing art. No educated man in the profession is ignorant of the science and ability that are brought to bear upon this art in the sister isle, where the opportunities for experience are also

very considerable indeed. It is to be hoped, therefore, that this organ of that collective science and experience is as much read on this side of the channel as in Ireland itself, and to which its merits and value entitle it.

Cary's Memorials of the Civil War in England.—Wright's Political Ballads published in England during the Commonwealth.

[Second notice.]

WE now redeem our pledge of returning to these two publications. We have already stated that the chief part of Mr. Cary's *Memorials*, and about half of the *Political Ballads*, relate to the intrigues which ended in bringing the king to the scaffold. We have also quoted from the letters which relate to his majesty's flight from Oxford, and to his reception among the Scots. It was to the Scottish army that Charles now owed many of his misfortunes; because the divisions which they caused encouraged him to act with imprudent intriguing, where he might have gained by open candour. The army of the Scots, as is well known, had been called into England to the aid of the parliament a short time before the battle of Marston Moor, when the king's affairs were apparently prosperous; and they remained there in expectation of the pay which the parliament had promised them, and in consideration of the speedy discharge of which they delivered up the king. The Scots were unanimous and violent Presbyterians; and in their zeal they looked forward to the establishment of an exclusively Presbyterian church-government in England as the final object of their endeavours. Their presence in the country was therefore a support to the English Presbyterians, who had been hitherto the party in power. But the Presbyterian party was eminently intolerant; and the leaders of the English army were of the more liberal party of the Independents. The Presbyterians attempted to destroy their influence by disbanding the army; but the English army also demanded arrears of pay, and their commanders supported them against the Presbyterian majority in parliament; and they were, moreover, increasing in popularity throughout the country. The Scottish soldiers appear to have been insubordinate and undisciplined; and their irregularities in the north tended not a little to increase the unpopularity of the Presbyterians. Mr. Cary has printed some curious letters relating to the conduct of the Scottish soldiery. A correspondent at York writes, on the 24th of May, 1646:—

"I am confident, if from the south we be not supplied with better force than now we have, that Riding (the East) will very suddenly be as much infested by the insolent Scot as already is the rest of the greatest part of our poor country. Cleveland has long lain a bleeding, you know; but, alas, it has now even received its death-wound: there are no less than five regiments of horse in it, and, I dare say, altogether as unruly and merciless as have lately been the Mahometan Tymarests in Candie: there is no safety for any man that has been in parliamentary employments, either military or civil, to come amongst them; for they unhorse all such, and rob them too, and that with so much scorn, that they tell them that it is not fit that a base Roundhead should either ride or have money in his purse."

Another correspondent at Scarborough writes, the day following:—

"They are most of them very rude in their carriage; for they every day ride abroad, and rob all men and women they meet with; none

can with safety pass to or from a fair, or town, or market: they have left us no horses that are able to carry a man; and profess, whensoever they go away, to leave us no other goods. In their quarters they demean themselves most barbarously; they beat their men and women causelessly. They will not eat either salt beef, or milk, or butter, nor drink any small beer, but force the poor men to buy them mutton, lamb, and chickens, and ale in abundance; and though they put their horses in the mowing grass, yet they force all their landlords to find them every day a peck of oats for each horse."

There are several other letters of the same description. These complaints were probably exaggerated; but they had their effect in rendering the Scots and the Presbyterians unpopular. One of the ballads says—

"Then northern locust to us came
In swarms like bees together;
But they may thank their general King,
Or they had nere sought higher.
Had he beene like Sir Marmaduke,
We then had struck a battell,
And made the bonny blue-cap run
To Tweede like summer cattell.
But they into our country came:
And well you know the reason?
'Twas for our *gudes* they came, they say,
And that could be no treason.
No sooner were they come, but they
Our *gudes* began to plunder,
And left us nothing but our soyle,
That they could beare or sunder."

The king was in the hands of the English army, that is, of the Independent party, and with them he openly negotiated, although he attempted to gain over the others; for it was his favourite project to overcome the stronger of the two parties by inducing the weaker to join their fortunes with his. In the midst of these negotiations fell out the dissensions between the army and the parliament, which ended in the flight of the eleven leading Presbyterian members, and the entry of the army into London. In Mr. Cary's book there are many valuable documents relating to these events, written by the persons who were most active in them. The king and his partisans rejoiced in these dissensions; they thought that the parliamentary army would revenge itself on the parliament by carrying the king triumphantly and unconditionally into the capital, and they already partitioned the prize amongst them. On the 30th June, 1647, Dr. Holdsworth writes to Saneroff:—

"The affairs here are so pendulous, that many are cast into frights what the issue will prove; yet, for myself I confess, to me they appear very hopeful; the finger of God being very discernible, and bidding us to lift up our heads a little, because the salvation draws nigh. Therefore, as I be prepared for the worst, so I will hope the best."

The meaning of this passage is best explained by extracts from the *Ballads*, in one of which, published on the 19th of June, 1647, we have the following lines:—

"If th' army doe their sovereigne owne,
And shall restore him to his crowne,
'Twill be a glorious thing;
Though in their hearts the prophets ly'd,
It will prove true they prophesy'd,
Hee'll be a glorious king.
Thou wilt deserve immortal glory,
And famous be in every story,
If this be done by thee;
Though th' English were well neere as bold
As the Scots, when they their sovereigne sold,
Fairfax will glorious be."

Another ballad, published on the 13th August following, says:—

"God send the valiant generall may
Restore the king to glory!
Then that name I have honoured so
Will famous be in story;

While if he doe not, I much feare
The ruine of the nation,
And (that I should be loth to see)
His house's desolation."

And a third, published on the 21st of the month last mentioned, adds:—

"Under the rose he it spoke, if you do not repent
Of that horrible sin, your pure Parliament;
Pray stay till Sir Thomas doth bring in the king,
Then Derrick* may chance have them all in a string."

The ballads in which these sentiments are found were chiefly written by the royalist prisoners in the Tower; and it is a great proof of the forbearance and liberality of the celebrated Long Parliament, that persons in that situation should have been allowed liberty of speech in this manner, even to the public spreading of what must have been considered as sedition.

In the mean time some unlucky discoveries destroyed the king's hopes with the Independents, and, to the surprise of all parties, he suddenly disappeared from Hampton Court, where he was kept, on the 11th of November, and fled to the Isle of Wight, where he immediately became a prisoner in Carisbrook Castle. A letter from the governor of this fortress, a year later, Nov. 7, 1648, furnishes us with a singular trait in Charles's character. The king had given his parole not to quit the island: in the power, as he then was, of his enemies, it was at least imprudent to contend upon quibbles like the following:—

"The next day, and at the commissioners taking their leaves of the king, I (having had intimation of a doubt, whether guards [as was pretended arguing a distrust] being kept upon the king, his said parole were not thereby made void, I pressed the king, before them, to declare whether he made any such question; if so, that he would please to utter it. He, seeming somewhat surprised, desired time to consider it, professing not to have thought on it before. But I, perceiving the danger of such a reserve, pressed him with greater earnestness to a clear declaration of himself on the point; telling him, that otherwise his parole signified nothing; and desired his positive answer, as the case now stood with him. His majesty avoided it long. I then told him, that if the sentinels at the door (I having kept no other since the engagement of his word) were offensive to him, and would absolutely clear him in that question he seemed to make scruple, they should be taken off (they being only set to keep off people from pressing into his lodgings), and placed at a further distance, with the guard which is kept to preserve his majesty's person from violence; assuring him, I only depended upon his word, which the parliament had pleased to accept, for his not removing out of the island. He told me, it would be then more clear, and that four or five several times: at length, upon my importunity, not being to be satisfied with a doubtful answer, he concluded himself to be obliged by his parole, if the said sentinels were taken away; which I then promised him should be done, before the commissioners, and accordingly it was immediately observed."

This is the last passage we had marked for extract. The more we attempt to give a just abstract of the documents published in Mr. Cary's book, the more convinced we become of the difficulty of doing so within any reasonable compass. We can safely recommend the work itself to all lovers of historical literature. The ballads, as we have before said, are continued through a longer space of time; and in the latter of the two periods we have men-

• The hangman.

tioned in our former notice they become more spirited and more bitter. In fact, we have seen few political squibs at any time which have equalled in cleverness and wit some of the songs composed in the days of the Rump. But it is next to impossible to make extracts from things which, like these, are only understood as a whole.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Proceedings of the London Electrical Society. Part III. Edited by the Secretary. London, 1842. Simpkin and Marshall.

CONTAINS the illustrated details of the several papers which have been read at the meetings of the Electrical Society during the last three months. "Translations and the monthly electrical registers" offer the principal attraction of this number. One of the former, entitled "Observations upon the electric effects of the gymnotus," by Prof. Schönbein, will be of especial interest to those who may not have already read it in the original, in *Les Archives de l'Electricité*. And now that the Royal Society have ordered electrical apparatus to be procured for the Greenwich Observatory (see *Lit. Gazette*, No. 1302), perhaps somewhat more attention will be directed to the results of the observations made by Mr. Weekes at Sandwich, and communicated monthly to the London Electrical Society.

The Tower: its History, Armouries, and Antiquities, before and since the Fire. By J. Hewit. 18mo, pp. 120.

THIS is a pretty and useful little work, published by authority of the Master-general and Board of Ordinance; and we can safely recommend it to the visitors of the Tower, both old and young, as the information it contains is considerable, and the descriptions clear and concise. The absurd tales of the old warders are exposed, and the progress of improvement in arms and armour briefly but clearly narrated from the works of Sir S. Meyrick and other received authorities. The derivation of the word *snap-haunce*, in Mr. Hewit's work, p. 91, appears to us to be more correct than Sir S. Meyrick's. The latter gentleman, in his illustrations of Skelton's Engraved Specimens, tells us the snap-haunce musket was so called from its being a fire-arm carried by the Dutch marauders who pillaged the farmyards, and were therefore termed *snap-hauns*, or *poultry-stealers*; but Mr. Hewit deduces the term from this musket having the earliest fire or flint-lock, and being therefore called "the *schnapp-hahn*, from the *hahn* or cock being let off with a snap (*schnappen*), instead of being gradually brought down on the pan as before. The name," he adds, "was also applied to the troops who used this arm; and subsequently, as these troops became the objects of public odium, it came to mean a depredator, a freebooter." In the absence of any direct proof, we certainly prefer this conjecture. At page 69, Mr. Hewit, speaking of a splendidly embossed suit of horse-armour, embellished with the combined badges of Burgundy and Granada, says, "I have had placed in my hands a letter on the subject of this horse-armour from an eminent antiquary, which I shall make no apology for publishing." This letter, which invests the suit in question with increased interest, was, we understand, written by Mr. J. R. Planché to Mr. Porrett, of the Tower, and contains reasons for supposing the suit to have belonged to Philip of Flanders, surnamed the Fair King of Castile and Arragon, who, with his queen Juanna, was in 1506 driven by a tempest to take refuge in

England, and detained upwards of three months in a sort of honourable captivity by Henry the Seventh.

Book of the Poets. The Modern Poets of the Nineteenth Century. 8vo, pp. 490. Scott, Webster, and Geary.

SOMEWHAT different in plan from Hervey's *English Helicon* (see *Lit. Gaz.* p. 10), this volume contains a body of poetry from the writings of W. Gifford, Joanna Baillie, Hannah More, Bloomfield, Crabbe, Sotheby, Rogers, Bowles, Wordsworth, J. Montgomery, C. Dibdin, T. H. Bayly, Scott, Coleridge, Tighe, Hogg, Landor, Southey, Lamb, Campbell, E. Elliott, Heber, Moore, Hunt, Kirke White, Byron, Barry Cornwall, Wilson, Milman, Wolfe, Hood, Cunningham, Shelley, Clare, Hemans, Keats, Croly, Pollok, Mitford, Landon, Knowles, Norton, and Lady Flora Hastings; from which list it may be seen, that a similar volume of poets omitted might very readily be added to this collection. Taken as it is, however, it is a pleasing and splendid garland; introduced by an essay on the English poetry of the present century, of which the writer expresses an enthusiastically high opinion, surmising that ages may revolve before a similar golden era arise; and accompanied by slight biographical notices of the writers (most of whom are called "talented"), and remarks upon their productions, which are in general sensible and appropriate. The volume, therefore, may well claim a place on the poetical shelf, and be often referred to with edification and delight.

The Renfrewshire Annual for 1842. Edited by Mrs. Maxwell of Brediland and Merksworth. Paisley, Murray and Stewart, and John Neilson; Glasgow, T. Murray and D. Robertson; Edinburgh, J. Menzies; London, Tilt and Bogue.

MRS. MAXWELL'S literary taste and talent produce the singularity of causing the shire of Renfrew to stand alone in the publication of a provincial Annual. It is a distinction worthy of praise; for we may be assured that wherever such pursuits are cultivated, there will be more of the amenities and refinements of life than elsewhere. The original pieces, in prose and verse, which form this miscellany, and principally written by native contributors, do credit to their authors and locality. They are of various kinds, but all tending to inculcate kindly, good, and virtuous feelings; whether wild and legendary in tale, or touching and descriptive in poetical composition. Some engravings embellish the page; the most taking of which, in our eyes, is a *capriccio*, by J. N. Paton, of Billy Boreas and a few companion winds, who seem fantastical and fierce enough to blow a man out of his skin!

The Christian Diary; with Moral and Religious Reflections, deduced from a Text of Scripture, for every Day in the Year. Pp. 360. London, R. Hastings.

A LITTLE more extended than Sturm's popular *Reflections*, this Christian diary breathes a devotional spirit throughout, and has a balm for times which might otherwise be more sorely afflicted by the troubles of the earth.

The Harmony of Protestant Confessions, &c. &c. From the Latin. A new edition, revised and considerably enlarged by the Rev. P. Hall, M.A., rector of Milstown, Wilts, and minister of Long Acre Chapel, London. 8vo, pp. 640. London, J. F. Shaw; Edinburgh, Johnstone; Dublin, J. Robertson.

THE abundance of religious and theological publications which now issue from the press is a strong evidence of the spirit of the times in

which we live. Mr. Hall not only combats the Romanists, but the evangelical section of his own Church, who, he seems to think, have departed from the principles of the Reformation. The many Confessions of the Church which are quoted, compared, and canvassed, are a remarkable portion of its history.

Rambles in Ceylon. By Lieut. De Butts. Sm. 8vo, pp. 308. London, Allen and Co.

A SLIGHT contribution to our acquaintance with the *status quo* of Ceylon, and not adding much to our previous knowledge,—we shall content ourselves with making a single extract, relative to the elephants which abound on the island, from this sketchy and pleasant-enough volume.

"After heavy rains, the track of these herds is easily detected, by the impressions of their feet on the soft clay. Some of the natives evince considerable sagacity in immediately discovering the least vestige of the foot-print of an elephant. From the most trifling marks they can confidently state the number, and, what appears still more extraordinary, the size, of the elephants composing the herd. The secret of this last discovery consists in the anatomical fact, that twice the circumference of an elephant's foot is exactly equal to his greatest height, measuring from the fore-foot to the point that corresponds with the withers of a horse. By long practice, and perfect acquaintance with the formation of the foot of the animal, the most expert native huntsmen can, by closely examining even a small section of the impression that it leaves, calculate his height, and nearly approximate to the truth."

*Meteorography; or, the Perpetual Weather-Almanac. Pp. 46 (Edinb.), R. S. Michie and John Sutherland; Glasgow, D. Robertson; London, Houlston and Stoneman).—*Whilst other weather-prophets calculate for time to come from various elements, planetary, astrological, comparative, and imaginary, the author of this Almanac takes a more limited range, and teaches how to look for foul and fair within certain short periods by consulting the aspects of the "bonnie lady moon," and the clouds at morning, noon, and night. These outward and visible signs he pictures in all their varieties; and shews from nimbus, cirrus, cumulus, stratus, height, colour, quarter of the heavens, &c. &c. what sort of weather is to be anticipated within a given space of hours. In this way meteorological observation founded on experience may be very accurate and useful; and we have no hesitation in recommending this Almanac, with its celestial tableaux, to the attention it will deserve from the inhabitants on earth.

*The Warning. Translated from the German. Pp. 107 (E. Wilson).—*The numerous and extremely pretty cuts which adorn this small volume recommend it highly as a Christmas gift to the rising generation—the men and women of years to come, who now elbow their seniors in the streets, and push them from their stools in the theatres. The story itself is one of romantic interest—robbers, assassins, and wild hunts in a forest. The brave and virtuous escape, and the criminals are punished; so that poetical justice is done, and a moral lesson read.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

THE NIGER EXPEDITION.

WE lament to say that the hopes we expressed in our No. 1300, and held in common with Mr. Laird, that, having surmounted the worst part of the river, and got above Attah, the health of the Niger Expedition would be improved or restored, have been extinguished by the accounts recently received from Africa. Letters from Fernando Po of October 5, and dated on board the Wilberforce, state that, in consequence of the sickness of the officers and crew, that vessel, instead of prosecuting her purposed voyage up the Chadda branch, had been obliged to follow the example of the Soudan, and on the second day after her departure, viz. Sept. 21st, to return, with severe loss of lives and general suffering, twenty-six of the crew and their cap-

tain* all being ill, to the coast. On board were Messrs. Bowden, Harvey, and Colman, all ill with the fever. Mr. Wakeham died on the passage down, and Mr. Harvey two days before the letter was despatched. The losses altogether were fifteen, including five officers; and the writer adds, that up to the time they left the Albert the total deaths were eighty-five or eighty-six.

The Wilberforce, like the Soudan, proceeded to Ascension, whence another letter of November 22 says:—

"On the 21st of September Captain Trotter considered the Albert to be still in an efficient state; having sent the sick away, he was anxious to make a further attempt, in hopes of being able to reach Rabbah, which, if he succeeds, will enable him (after the success we had at Iber and at Iddah) nearly to complete the main objects for which we entered the river. He intended to come down to the sea in the middle of November; and as he has plenty of coals, which he will reserve for the purpose, a few days will bring him clear of the river, even from Rabbah. After the Soudan left us, there were so many sick in the Wilberforce that we were not able to go up the Chadda, as had been previously determined, but were unfortunately obliged to follow the Soudan. On the arrival of the Wilberforce at Fernando Po, she (the Soudan) was sent in charge of Lieut. Strange to endeavour to reach the Albert; and before she left, Mr. Bercroft arrived in the Ethiop, and very handsomely agreed to go up the river, and offer any assistance, should Captain Trotter require it. We are getting ready to go to the coast, according to our orders; but hope before we sail to see Captain Trotter here."

The Albert, it was proposed should leave the confluence of the Niger and Chadda, to attempt further progress up the former, the same day on which the Wilberforce was obliged to relinquish its cherished hopes and fall down the stream; and two notes written by Captain Trotter (Sept. 20 and 21) "shew (observes the correspondent from whom we gather this information) that notwithstanding the numerous obstacles arising from the climate, he had still strong hopes of eventual good resulting from the Expedition, and was by no means disposed to omit one single chance of success. He says: 'The new cases that occur every minute are very perplexing; but I do not see that it is yet time for the Albert to give up the river this year, though half an hour more may alter the case. . . I shall certainly, I think, be at Fernando Po by the 15th of December. The model-farm is going on well, and is beautifully situated.'"

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 12.—The pharmacutists and their friends assembled in great numbers on Wednesday evening, at their new official residence in Bloomsbury Square. Two rooms on the ground-floor were laid out with specimens of dried herbs, roots, and other medico-botanical products, drugs, chemicals, &c. &c. of the finest and best. Some had been presented to the society, others only sent for exhibition; they are all to remain on view during the ensuing week. The collection attracted great and well-deserved attention, and elicited many and various expressions of praise. The ordinary business commenced at half-past eight o'clock, when Mr. Payne took the chair. The papers read were—

1. "On the *Daphne* tribe of plants," intro-

* Since happily recovered.

duced, we believe, by Mr. Payne, for the purpose of drawing attention to medical botany, and the investigations connected with it. The author having ascertained that a considerable quantity of the root supplied to the trade as mezereon is, in fact, the root of the *Daphne laureola*, he proceeded to experiment on the comparative efficacy of the species *Daphne mezereum* and *D. laureola*. The results, together with the characteristics and qualities of each, are given in the paper. He states, in conclusion, that the active principle of the mezereon being volatile in aqueous vapour, it is likely that maceration with heat, in close vessels, would be a more efficacious mode of preparing it than by decoction; and that it is his intention to investigate the active principle on which the effects of this class of plants depend; "for it is clear the efficacy does not reside in the so-called vegetable alkaloid daphnine."

2. "On the gelatinisation of tincture of kino," by Mr. Redwood. The change which takes place in tincture of kino from a fluid to the gelatinous form is a frequent source of inconvenience to the pharmaceutical chemist. It has hitherto been generally ascribed to the presence of pectin or pectic acid. But the kino of the present day is brought from the East Indies, and is an extract formed by inspissating a decoction of the branches and twigs of the *Nuclea gambir*, a plant belonging to the natural order *Cinchoniaceae*. In this species of kino there is no pectin; and Mr. Redwood's experiments lead him to conclude, that the conversion of the tincture to the gelatinous form is due to the existence therein of ulmic acid. The principal fact upon which he appears to ground this opinion is, that the ammoniacal solution of the residue, after treating the gelatinous substance with boiling water, as also the ammoniacal solution of ulmic acid, yield a deep red precipitate with nitrate of silver. The most effectual means of preventing this change would probably be, in preparing the tincture, to extract as speedily as possible the most soluble part of the kino, without allowing the solution thus formed to remain long in contact with the altered and less soluble constituents. The process of displacement, instead of the preparation by maceration, was also recommended, and likewise the precaution to keep the tincture in well-filled and well-stopped bottles. A lengthened discussion ensued.

CIVIL ENGINEERS.

Jan. 11. (first meeting of the season).—Mr. Walker, pres., in the chair. After the usual preliminary business, the secretary read the following papers:—

1. "On portions of the works of the Ulster canal," by Mr. Casebourne, illustrated by plans and drawings. The peculiarities and difficulties in the accomplishment of the undertaking, by Telford and Cubitt,—the lockage, passage of ravines, &c. were described. An idea of the obstacles overcome may be formed from the fact, that three quarters of a mile of the Ulster canal, without the purchase of land, cost 17,000*l*.—2. "On the Birmingham and Gloucester railway," by Mr. Jackson (graduate, presentation paper).—3. "On the water-pressure engines at Illsang in Bavaria," by Mr. Baker (also grad. and pres. paper). These engines are for the purpose of raising brine from the salt-mines. The works are made of brass, and the pistons are packed with leather. So noiselessly do they perform their duty, that were it not for a slight movement in some portions of the engine, it could scarcely be known that it was in action. And yet by water-pressure, it was stated, thus silently is the brine raised and forced in suc-

cession to a distance of 60 miles. The paper and drawing elicited merited approbation.

In the assembling-room were exhibited two beautiful water-colour drawings, evincing great artistic skill and architectural knowledge, by Mr. Atkinson, of a palace for his highness Nuwal Nazim, at Moorshedabad, designed by and built under the superintendence of Major-general M'Leod, engineer. The north front has a portico of six columns, approached by a flight of steps 110 feet wide, and carried to the height of 18 feet. The columns are Grecian-Doric, 36 feet high. The projections in this front are bold, and well arranged; which, with the small porticos of four columns each, give a great variety of light and shade. The palace is about 425 feet long by 200 feet wide. The south front has a portico of eight columns, also of Greek-Doric, 100 feet long; the entablature is continued all round the structure, and when viewed from either end, it forms a splendid architectural mass, not surpassed by any building, and in very few instances equalled.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 7.—Mr. J. E. Gray, president, in the chair. The following specimens were presented—by Mr. W. A. Leighton, *Tragopogon minor* (Fries), found in Shropshire; by Mr. J. Ward, *Lecanora rubra* and *Ribes spicatum* (Robson), found in Yorkshire; also were presented by Dr. Muhlenbeck a large collection of foreign mosses, and by Mr. A. Gerard some interesting plants from Sierra Leone collected by Mrs. Blyth. Various parcels of British and foreign plants from different members were duly acknowledged; and the secretary proceeded to read a letter from Dr. Nees Von Esenbeck, thanking the society for having elected him a foreign member: this was followed by Mr. E. Lee's paper, entitled "Observations on the Flora of the Malvern Hills and the surrounding district in Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and Gloucestershire." The author proposes to trace the vegetation of the district in three divisions, the marshes, the syenitic hills, and the silurian limestone tract. This first paper directed attention to the littoral, or saline, and other plants growing on the Longdon marshes and their vicinity, or in the flat country between the Malvern hills and the Severn, or on the banks of the latter between Worcester and Eldersfield. Observations on the localities and distribution of each were made, and specimens were presented to be deposited in the herbarium of the society. The whole when completed will form a valuable illustrated record of the vegetation of an extensive and interesting tract of country, to compile which the author appears fully competent.

The regulations by this society for the exchange and distribution of specimens of plants are worthy of notice. They instruct how the several examples are to be prepared for transmission, and as to their disposal. 1st, of course, the society's own herbarium is to be supplied; 2d, a stock of duplicates will be formed for exchange with contributors; and 3d, the remaining duplicates are to be reserved for non-contributing members, on application to the secretary.

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 14.—Mr. J. W. G. Gutch in the chair. Various donations, and elections of members and associates, were announced. Lieut. Morrison, R.N., read a paper "On the causes of oscillations of the barometer, and of diminished pressure previously to periods of high wind." The notions of M. Biot and Professor Lermis

were fully discussed, and the following conclusion drawn: that the oscillations of the barometer are caused by a mechanical rarefaction of the air, attended by a diminished pressure. When the earth is in a *positive* state of electricity, and the air *minus*—while the electric matter is permeating the atmosphere—its pressure will be decreasing, and the barometer falling; but when the earth is *minus*, and the air *plus* of electric matter, the lower state will readily part with its electricity, since its conducting powers are greater than the upper and rarer portions; and as it gives up its electricity, it becomes denser, and the barometer *rises rapidly*. But the upper strata being once highly charged with the electric matter, and being totally devoid of moisture, parts very slowly with its electricity. And we may presume that when masses less highly charged are carried along with a great velocity, and pass beneath portions of air still charged, there will be sparks given out, and occasional flashes of electric light, where the air is extremely rare, and becomes nearly similar to the vacuum of an air-pump receiver.

The secretary then read the following papers:—1. "On November meteors," by Mr. W. J. Simmonite, as seen in 1837 and 1838; with notices of aurora borealis during the displays. 2. "On the November meteors, as seen in America in 1841, at Kingston." 3. "Notice of a violent gale at Bermuda, on the 21st October last." 4. "Proposal for increasing the index-scale of the barometer by a cistern-tube of small diameter, the mercury to rise and fall therein." The subject of this paper was fully discussed, but it was found to be impracticable in execution. Tables were compared from South Australia, Western Australia, the Bahamas, Perthshire, Canterbury, Wycombe, Thetford, Leamington, Kinlet, Worcester, Hereford, Dundee, London, and various other places. One very curious fact was shewn, on comparing the tables of rain for the year 1841. The Royal Society registered for the year 27 inches; an observer at St. John's Wood registered 31.12 inches; and another at Walworth 30.87 inches: these two places, on each side of the Royal Society, differ only a quarter of an inch, and both exceed the Royal Society by more than three inches. The observers at St. John's Wood and Walworth both register by Cupley's patent self-registering rain-gauge, and both are placed about four feet from the ground.

EDINBURGH NEW PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.

[Did not our limits prevent, we should transfer to our columns at greater length several of the articles communicated to, selected for, and published in, our able contemporary for the present quarter. As it is, however, we can only skim the surface, dipping here and there, tasting and analysing.]

On a remarkable Structure observed by Professor Forbes in the Ice of Glaciers.—On the 9th of Aug. last (1841), Prof. Forbes paid his first visit to the lower glacier of the Aar, upon or near which he spent the greater part of three weeks, in company with Prof. Agassiz of Neuchâtel, and Mr. J. M. Heath of Cambridge. On the first day he noticed in some parts of the ice a *ribbed structure*, formed by thin and delicate blue and bluish-white bands or strata, which appeared to traverse the ice in a vertical direction, or rather which, by their apposition, formed the entire mass of the ice. During the whole of their subsequent residence amongst the glaciers, the phenomena and causes of this structure occupied their thoughts very frequently. They had much difficulty in arriving at a correct description of the manner of its occurrence, and still more in forming a theory in the least plausible respecting its ori-

gin. Its importance, however, as an indication of an unknown cause, is very great; not only because all that can illustrate what is so obscure as the manner of glacier formation and movement is so, but because it is precisely on this very point of "What is the internal structure of the ice of a glacier?" that the question now pending respecting internal dilatation as a force producing progression mainly hangs. After describing the extent, thickness, course, and other peculiarities of this structure in relation to the glacier itself, and to its moraines and walls, Prof. Forbes says, "The whole phenomenon has a good deal the air of being a structure induced *perpendicularly to the lines of greatest pressure*, though I do not assert that the statement is general. Whilst the glacier is confined between precipitous barriers, with a feeble inclination, the structure is longitudinal. As the glacier, by its weight falls over the lower part of its bed, and moulds itself into the form which the continued action of gravity on its somewhat plastic structure impresses, the structure is first annihilated, and the bands then re-appear in a transverse direction, as if generated by the downward and forward pressure, which at the lowest part of the glacier replaces the tight wedging which higher up it received laterally." The appearance was illustrated by a figure of the glacier of the Rhone, which, having reached the valley of the Rhone, spreads itself across and along it pretty freely, much as a painful of thickish mortar would do in like circumstances. "In conclusion (for the present)," the author remarks, "this structure deserves the attention of geologists generally, as shewing how the appearance of the most delicate stratification, and of sedimentary deposition, may be produced in homogeneous masses, where nothing of the kind has occurred. For a short time, indeed, I was of opinion that this structure resulted from true stratification; but a closer examination of the mass convinced me that, inexplicable as the fact remains, it must be accounted for in some other way. We have endeavoured to shew an empirical connexion which appears to exist between the structural planes and the sustaining walls of the glacier, and likewise that the recurrence of congelation and thaw appears to strengthen the formation of the bands. But this cannot be considered as in any degree amounting to an explanation. The analogous difficulty of slaty cleavage in rocks presents itself as not improbably connected with a similar unknown cause, whose action pervaded the mass of the crystallising rock undergoing metamorphic change, as this pervades the mass of the crystallising glacier. In the former case, we have cleavage-planes perfectly parallel, almost indefinitely extending with unaltered features over vast surfaces of the most rugged country, changing neither direction, dip, nor interval, with hill or valley, cliff or scar, and passing alike through strata whose planes of stratification, horizontal, elevated, undulating, or contorted, offer no obstacle or modification to the omnipotent energy which has rearranged every particle in the mass subsequent to deposition. The supposition of Prof. Sedgwick, who has minutely described and considered this geological puzzle, that 'crystalline or polar forces acted on the whole mass simultaneously in given directions, and with adequate power,' can hardly be considered as a solution of the difficulty, until it is shewn that the forces in question have so acted, and can so act. The experiment is one which the boldest philosopher would be puzzled to repeat in his laboratory; it probably requires acres for its scope,

and years for its accomplishment. May it not be, that nature is performing in her icy domain a repetition of the same mysterious process, and that, in another view from the one which has recently been taken, the theory of glaciers may lead to the true solution of geological problems?"

CAPTAIN ROSS'S DISCOVERIES. (Parliamentary Paper.)

Return to an Address of the Hon. the House of Commons, moved for by Lord Ashley, dated Aug. 26, 1841, for copies of such extracts from the Despatch of Capt. James Ross, from Van Dieman's Land, as will shew the nature and extent of the brilliant discoveries which are said to have been made in a high southern latitude by H.M.S. Erebus and Terror, and presented and ordered to be printed Sept. 6.

Extracts of a Despatch from Capt. James C. Ross, of H.M.S. Erebus, dated Van Dieman's Land, April 7, 1841, and addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you with the arrival of Her Majesty's ship under my command, and the Terror under my orders, this afternoon, at this port. I have further to report to you, for the information of my lords commissioners of the Admiralty, that, in accordance with the intentions expressed in my despatch to you, dated from Hobart Town on the 11th of November last, I proceeded to Auckland Islands, and satisfactorily accomplished a complete series of magnetometric observations on the important term-day of November last.

Under all the circumstances it appeared to me that it would conduce more to the advancement of that branch of science for which the expedition has been more expressly sent forth, as well as for the extension of our geographical knowledge of the antarctic regions, to endeavour to penetrate to the southward, or about the 170th deg. of east longitude, by which the isodynamic oval, and the point exactly between the two foci of greater magnetic intensity, might be passed over and determined, and directly between the tracks of the Russian navigator Bellinghausen and our own Captain James Cook; and, after entering the antarctic circle, to steer S.W. towards the pole, rather than attempt to approach it directly from the north on the unsuccessful footsteps of my predecessors.

Accordingly, on leaving Auckland Islands on the 12th of December, we proceeded to the southward, touching for a few days at Campbell Island for magnetic purposes; and after passing among many icebergs to the southward of 63° latitude, we made the pack edge, and entered the antarctic circle on the 1st day of January, 1841.

This pack presented none of those formidable characters which I had been led to expect from the accounts of the Americans and French; but the circumstances were sufficiently unfavourable to deter me from entering it at this time; and a gale from the northward interrupted our operations for three or four days. On the 5th of January we again made the pack, about 100 miles to the eastward, in lat. 66° 45' S. and long. 174° 16' E.; and although the wind was blowing directly on it, with a high sea running, we succeeded in entering it without either of the ships sustaining any injury; and, after penetrating a few miles, we were enabled to make our way to the southward with comparative ease and safety.

On the following three or four days our progress was rendered more difficult and tedious by thick fogs, light winds, a heavy swell, and almost constant snow-showers; but a strong water-sky to the south-east, which was seen at every interval of clear weather, encouraged us to persevere in that direction; and on the morning of the 9th, after sailing more than 200 miles

through this pack, we gained a perfectly clear sea, and bore away south-west towards the magnetic pole.

On the morning of the 11th of January, when in lat. $70^{\circ} 41' S.$ and long. $172^{\circ} 36'$, land was discovered at the distance, as it afterwards proved, of nearly 100 miles, directly in the course we were steering, and therefore directly between us and the pole.

Although this circumstance was viewed at the time with considerable regret, as being likely to defeat one of the more important objects of the expedition, yet it restored to England the honour of the discovery of the southernmost known land, which had been nobly won, and for more than twenty years possessed, by Russia.

Continuing our course towards this land for many hours, we seemed scarcely to approach it. It rose in lofty mountain-peaks of from 9,000 to 12,000 feet in height, perfectly covered with eternal snow; the glaciers that descended from near the mountain-summits projected many miles into the ocean, and presented a perpendicular face of lofty cliffs. As we neared the land, some exposed patches of rock appeared; and steering towards a small bay for the purpose of effecting a landing, we found the shore so thickly lined for some miles with bergs and pack-ice, and with a heavy swell dashing against it, that we were obliged to abandon our purpose, and steer towards a more promising-looking point to the south-east, off which we observed several small islands; and on the morning of the 12th I landed, accompanied by Commander Crozier and a number of the officers of each ship, and took possession of the country in the name of her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

The island on which we landed is composed wholly of igneous rocks, numerous specimens of which, with other embedded minerals, were procured. It is in lat. $71^{\circ} 56' S.$ and long. $171^{\circ} 7' E.$

Observing that the east coast of the mainland tended to the southward, whilst the north shore took a north-west direction, I was led to hope that, by penetrating to the south as far as practicable, it might be possible to pass beyond the magnetic pole, which our combined observations placed in $76^{\circ} S.$ nearly, and thence, by steering westward, complete its circumnavigation. We accordingly pursued our course along this magnificent land; and on the 22d of January we reached $74^{\circ} 15' S.$, the highest southern latitude that had ever been attained by any preceding navigator, and that by our own countryman, Captain James Weddell.

Although greatly impeded by strong southerly gales, thick fogs, and constant snow-storms, we continued the examination of the coast to the southward; and on the 27th we again landed on an island in lat. $76^{\circ} 8' S.$ and $168^{\circ} 12' E.$, composed, as on the former occasion, entirely of igneous rocks.

Still steering to the southward, early the next morning, the 28th, a mountain of 12,400 feet above the level of the sea was seen emitting flame and smoke in splendid profusion. This magnificent volcano received the name of Mount Erebus. It is in lat. $77^{\circ} 32' S.$ and long. $167^{\circ} E.$; an extinct crater to the eastward of Mount Erebus, of a somewhat less elevation, was called Mount Terror. The mainland preserved its southerly tending, and we continued to follow it, until, in the afternoon, when close in with the land, our further progress in that direction was prevented by a barrier of ice stretching away from a projecting cape of the coast directly to the E.S.E. This extraordinary barrier presented a perpendicular face of at least

150 feet, rising, of course, far above the mast-heads of our ships, and completely concealing from our view every thing beyond it, except only the tops of a range of very lofty mountains in a S.S.E. direction, and in lat. $79^{\circ} S.$

Pursuing the examination of this splendid barrier to the eastward, we reached the latitude of $78^{\circ} 4' S.$, the highest we were at any time able to attain, on the 2d of February; and on the 9th, having traced its continuity to the longitude of $191^{\circ} 23'$ in latitude $78^{\circ} S.$, a distance of more than 300 miles, our further progress was prevented by a heavy pack, pressed closely against the barrier; and the narrow lane of water by means of which we had penetrated thus far became so completely covered by rapidly forming ice, that nothing but the strong breeze with which we were favoured enabled us to retrace our steps. When at a distance of less than half a mile from its lofty icy cliffs we had soundings with 318 fathoms, on a bed of soft blue mud.

With a temperature of 20° below the freezing point, we found the ice to form so rapidly on the surface, that any further examination of the barrier in so extremely severe a period of the season being impracticable, we stood away to the westward, for the purpose of making another attempt to approach the magnetic pole, and again reached its latitude ($76^{\circ} S.$) on the 15th of February; and although we found that much of the heavy ice had drifted away since our former attempt, and its place in a great measure supplied by recently formed ice, yet we made some way through it, and got a few miles nearer the pole than we had before been able to accomplish, when the heavy pack again frustrated all our efforts, completely filling the space of fifteen or sixteen miles between us and the shore. We were this time in lat. $76^{\circ} 12' S.$ and long. 164° , the dip being $88^{\circ} 40'$, and variation $109^{\circ} 24' E.$ We were, of course, only 160 miles from the pole.

Had it been possible to approach any part of this coast, and have found any place of security for the ships, we might have travelled this short distance over the land; but this proved to be utterly impracticable; and although our hopes of complete attainment have not been realised, it is some satisfaction to feel assured that we have approached the pole more nearly by some hundred miles than any of our predecessors; and from the multitude of observations that have been made in both ships, and in so many different directions from it, its position can be determined with nearly as much accuracy as if we had actually reached the spot itself.

It had ever been an object of anxious desire with us to find a harbour for the ships, so as to enable us to make simultaneous observations with the numerous observatories that would be at work on the important term-day of the 28th of February, as well as for other scientific purposes; but every part of the coast where indentations appeared, and where harbours on other shores usually occur, we found so perfectly filled with perennial ice, of many hundred feet in thickness, that all our endeavours to find a place of shelter for our vessels were quite unavailing.

Having now completed all that it appeared to me possible to accomplish in so high a latitude and at so advanced a period of the season, and desirous to obtain as much information as possible of the extent and form of the coast we had discovered, as also to guide in some measure our future operations, I bore away, on the 18th of February, for the north part of this land, and which, by favour of a strong southerly gale, we reached on the morning of the 21st.

We again endeavoured to effect a landing on this part of the coast, and were again defeated in our attempt by the heavy pack, which extended for many miles from the shore, and rendered it impossible.

For several days we continued to examine the coast to the westward, tracing the pack-edge along, until, on the 25th of February, we found the land abruptly to terminate in latitude $70^{\circ} 40' S.$ and longitude $165^{\circ} E.$, tending considerably to the southward of west, and presenting to our view an immense space occupied by a dense pack, now so firmly cemented together by the newly formed ice, and so covered by recent snow, as to present the appearance of one unbroken mass, and defying every attempt to penetrate it.

The great southern land we have discovered, whose continuity we have traced from nearly the 70th to the 79th of latitude, I am desirous to distinguish by the name of our most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.

Following the edge of the pack to the north-west, as weather permitted, we found it to occupy the whole space between the north-west shore of the great southern land and the chain of islands lying near the antarctic circle, first discovered by Balleny in 1839, and more extensively explored by the American and French expeditions in the following year.

Continuing our course to the westward, we approached the place where Prof. Gauss supposed the magnetic pole to be; and having obtained all the observations that were necessary to prove the inaccuracy of that supposition, we devoted some days to the investigation of the line of no variation; and having completed a series of observations, by which the isodynamic lines and point of greater magnetic intensity may be determined, and which I had left incomplete last year, I bore away on the 4th of April for this port.

A chart,* shewing more plainly the discoveries and track of the expedition, is herewith transmitted; and a more detailed plan, containing all magnetic determinations, shall be sent as soon as they are reduced.

I have much satisfaction in being able to add, that the service has been accomplished without the occurrence of any casualty, calamity, or disease of any kind; and there is not a single individual in either of the ships on the sick-list.

It affords me the highest gratification to acquaint you that I have received the most cordial and efficient co-operation from my well-tried friend and colleague Commander Crozier, of the Terror, and no terms of admiration that I can employ can do justice to his great merit; nor have the zeal and persevering devotion of the officers of both ships been less conspicuous, under circumstances of no ordinary trial and difficulty; and whilst the conduct of our crews has been such as to reflect the highest honour on their characters as British sailors, it has given to myself, Commander Crozier, and the officers of the expedition, the most confident assurance of more extended success in pursuing the important duties we have yet to fulfil.

PARIS LETTER.

Paris, Jan. 11, 1842.
Academy of Sciences. Sitting of Jan. 3.—The office of one of the vice-presidents having become vacant by the succession of M. Poncelet to the office of president, M. Dumas was appointed to it. — M. Lamé read a long and elaborate

* Attached to the paper is a section of a chart of the South Polar Sea, shewing the discoveries and track of H.M.S. Erebus and Terror in a high southern latitude.

borate paper on the general principles of natural philosophy. — M. Vincent communicated some passages from ancient authors, tending to shew that the Romans gave certain values of position to numbers, and employed them for telegraphic signals as far back as the time of Heligabalus. — M. Arago informed the Academy that the works in progress at the Artesian Well of Grenelle, for drawing out the metallic tube from the bore, have been successfully terminated. After having got out 200 metres of the tube with the greatest difficulty, and only by cutting it into small pieces, M. Mulot found that the lower part of the tube was only flattened, and not twisted. He gave, therefore, a circular form to the orifice of the bore, and then drilled into the upper part of the remainder of the tube for about a foot and a half. A strong screw was fixed into this portion, and all was drawn out. A curious circumstance connected with the failure of the piping was, that the sand penetrated between the first and second series of pipes, and formed a sort of hard cement, which not only broke the shape of the tubes, but fixed them so tightly together that it was almost impossible to move them. — M. Gaber, a French Lazarist missionary, stationed near Jehol, in that portion of Mongol Tartary which has been added to the Chinese province of Tchi-Li, forwarded to the Academy through M. S. Julien some specimens of rice, which were remarkable from their having been grown, not in the marshes usually producing this plant, but on ground fit for the cultivation of wheat, and that, too, without any need of natural or artificial irrigation. This rice is of a species the natural locality of which is Cochin China. A considerable quantity of silk-worms' eggs were sent from the same person. — Several medical and anatomical papers were read to the Academy, especially an able one by M. Sedillot on the difficult operation of the disarticulation of the thigh, which was ordered to be printed in the *Recueil des Savants Etrangers*.

M. Chevreul, member of the Institute, has just commenced his course of public and gratuitous lectures on the contrast of colours, at the Gobelins. The following are the subjects of the lectures: — First lecture — Abstract theory of the contrast of colours. Second lecture — General definitions, the chromatic-hemispheric construction, and harmony of colours. Third and fourth lectures — Applications to painting. Fifth lecture — Applications to the Gobelins tapestry, carpets, mosaics, and coloured glass. Sixth lecture — Applications to printed cloths, paper-hangings, and coloured prints. Seventh lecture — Applications to architecture and the interior decoration of buildings. Eighth lecture — Applications to dress and horticulture. Ninth lecture — Summary view of the rules of taste in colours.

The report of the committee on the plans for the tomb of Napoleon is daily expected to be published. A fresh competition is generally expected.

M. Calame, the Genevese landscape-painter, continues to excite much attention in the artistic world by his bold etchings of Swiss scenery. They are very masterly, and ought to be in the portfolio of every amateur.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Jan. 13. — Mr. Hallam in the chair. The society held its first meeting after the Christmas recess. Mr. Roach Smith exhibited a medal of lead, stamped only on one side, with the Tudor arms surrounded by the inscription

ANGLIÆ REGINA UBIQUE HONORATA, struck in honour of Queen Elizabeth, and found under the foundations of the old Royal Exchange. — Mr. Britton communicated a considerable number of drawings of sculptures and buildings of the ancient ruined city of Palenqué in Mexico, differing from, and supplementary to those which had previously been published, made by Captain Caddy, with a description of them by Captain Caddy, who supposes the city to be Egypto-Indian. The architectural character of the buildings, and the sculptures, are decidedly Indian, and remind us of those found in the temple-caves of the East. Several of the designs were accompanied with hieroglyphic inscriptions. The buildings recall the remains of the Egyptian cities.

IRISH ANTIQUITIES.

At a recent meeting of the Oxford Ashmolean Society (reported in the *Oxford Herald*), Dr. Travers Twiss read an interesting paper "On the sepulchral circles at Carrowmore, near Sligo," which bear a striking resemblance to the monumental remains at Carnac in Brittany.

The locality in which the mass of these circles is found is situated on a kind of broad peninsula between the bay of Sligo and that of Ballysadare. Within a district of about six miles in circumference, Mr. Petrie traced out nearly sixty of these circles; and there is fair reason for supposing that there were at least between one and two hundred such, though not so important as those which still remain. They appear to have been grouped round a central cairn, termed *Listoghil*, in the interior of which a *cromlech*, or tomb, may still be seen. The circles exhibit, more or less, the same character every where. They are composed of *menhirs*, or upright detached stones, arranged in regular order round a centre, which is still occupied in many cases by a *cromlech*. In some cases there are two concentric ranges of these stones; in one, or more, three concentric circles. The stones are much inferior in size to those of the avenues of Carnac, and in their general character are not so imposing as those in Brittany. Still the collective number of these circles and their identity of feature fully warrant their claim to be regarded as the chief monument of the kind in Ireland. The popular name of them is either *Leaba-na-Fian*, i.e. the beds or graves of the warriors, or *Leaba-na-Fiar-mow*, the graves of the giants or big men; and at no great distance to the north of *Listoghil* is a well still entitled *Tobar-na-Fian*, or the well of the warriors. These legendary titles seem to mark this neighbourhood out as the site of sepulchral remains of no ordinary interest; but whether as the scene of the death-struggle of a nation, or as the burial-place of successive generations of warriors, deserves consideration. Amongst other remarkable remains a tumulus of stones and clay, known by the name of *Cruchan-a-Curragh*, or the little hill of the marsh, to the north of the road from Sligo to Rathcarrick, claims attention; and about two miles to the north-west of these monuments is a remarkable hill, called *Knocknarea*, on the summit of which still stands the cairn of Queen Meva, of which notice is found in the annals of the Four Masters. This hill is 1078 feet above the sea. In regard to the origin and purport of these monuments, there can be no doubt that they were sepulchral and of a very early period, being of the class ordinarily termed Celtic, the workmanship and design of which is semi-barbarous, and on which no written characters remain to tell their history. They were probably the burial-places of the most ancient inhabit-

ants of this part of Ireland, whether Celts, or Teutons, or Danaans. The monuments are chiefly of granite, though the country round is of limestone.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR

THE ENSUING WEEK:—

Monday.—Statistical, 8 P.M.; Brit. Architects, 8 P.M.; Medical, 8 P.M.; Medico-Botanical (anniversary meeting).

Tuesday.—Linnean, 8 P.M.; Horticultural, 2 P.M.; Civil Engineers (anniversary meeting), 8 P.M.; Electrical, 8 P.M.; Chemical, 8 P.M.

Wednesday.—Soc. of Arts, 8 P.M.; Geolog., 8½ P.M.; London Institution, 7 P.M.

Thursday.—Royal, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, 8 P.M.

Friday.—Royal Institution, 8½ P.M.; Botan., 8 P.M. Saturday.—Royal Botanic, 4 P.M.; Westminster Medical, 8 P.M.; Mathematical, 8 P.M.

FINE ARTS.

ANTIQUITIES OF ASIA MINOR.

Extract of a Letter from an English Gentleman, dated Smyrna, Nov. 19, 1841.

"MR. FELLOWES the traveller (of whom you no doubt have read the travels in the East) has arrived here in the Beacon (surveying ship). The British Museum has sent out 500*l.* to defray the expenses of transporting a magnificent sarcophagus to England. Mr. Fellowes accompanies the party who have the labour of removing it. It is situated in the S.W. part of Asia Minor, and is called Xanthus. It is about 18 feet high, and is adorned with beautiful basso-reliefs of battle-pieces, &c. There have also been found ancient inscriptions, in a very old character, which a German professor has with great labour translated, and by which several doubts in ancient history have been cleared up. It dates 580 B.C. The Beacon is waiting here for a firman, or permit, and then proceeds on the expedition. It will be a splendid addition to the British Museum; and I hope that they will be able to accomplish its removal, as its weight is enormous."

AMATEUR ARTISTS' SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening the members met, for the first time of the second season of this young and deserving society, at the house of their president, Mr. E. Antrobus. We were glad to hear of, and to witness, successful progression. There were exhibited several pictures of high promise. We may mention with praise Scenes in Devonshire, by A. Martin; Fish (gurnet and mackerel, with the head of an eel, contrasting retention of life with speedy death), by Chamberlayne; Fruit; by Colls; a Figure, after Spagnoletti, by Madame Wolfensberger; and Sea-views, by Antrobus. The president read an interesting paper, "On the present state of art, and of the eminent position occupied by English artists; but principally with reference to the pictorial adornment of the New Houses of Parliament, and to the Royal Committee on the Fine Arts." Besides the dampness and smoke of London, and of the locality of the legislative halls, numerous objections to fresco-painting for the purpose were brought forward. At the conclusion of the paper the members and visitors adjourned to liberal refreshment.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Stephano; from the Tempest. By H. Melling. A NEW specimen of coloured lithography, by which pictures are multiplied *ad libitum*. Mr. Melling states that he has for years been engaged on experiments with this new art; and his first figure is a high recommendation to it, and proof of his success.

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

RELIEF OF FRENCH DISTRESS, &c.

THE daily journals have recently noticed a proposition humanely brought forward by Count D'Orsay—himself belonging to one of the highest and most ancient noble families of France, and thus well entitled to be the mover of so gracious an act—for the establishment of an Institution in London to relieve the distressed among his countrymen who may be suffering want in a stranger land. It is a plan most worthy of support; and will, we trust, be carried into effect with immediate promptness and sufficient means. There are, perhaps, some 25,000 natives of France travelling or employed in various capacities in England,—cooks, valets, hairdressers, artificial florists, milliners, mantua-makers, artisans in fancy trades, &c. &c.; and out of this number it is impossible, in these hard times, but that many should fall into destitution and wretchedness. In London alone are several thousands, and in many kinds of precarious occupation. When any of them become distressed, who is there to pity and help them? They have no settlements, no home nor kindred, where they can claim or seek relief. The private charities of their more opulent countrymen who are sojourning amongst us, besides being a heavy burden, cannot but be inadequate to meet their necessities; and therefore it is, that we earnestly beg attention to Count D'Orsay's patriotic and benevolent suggestion. That it will be adopted by the wealthier French residing in England, we have no doubt; and we are glad to hear that in Paris it has already met with liberal countenance. But we write as of Britain; and though the refined feeling of Count D'Orsay may prevent him from appealing to English hearts, we hope that many of them will beat responsive to the call, voluntarily, and on the principle of universal humanity. The bonds of nations are sweetly riveted by such interchange of the charities of life; and it is a wise philanthropy which, not neglecting the nearest objects, looks beyond them on proper occasions for a wider exercise of its beneficent sentiments and enlarged diffusion of its twice-blessed deeds. An Asylum of this description may be commenced on a moderate scale. We would advise that that noble society, the Scottish Corporation, should be taken as a model. It began on a limited foundation; but it has grown to be mighty, and the good it now does is inestimable. Combining also, as Count D'Orsay's proposal does, a provision for the education of forlorn children, we repeat our hope, that future generations may see the new Association on behalf of France as great and prosperous as that for old Scotland.

THE DRAMA.

Drury Lane.—Mr. Macready has produced the *Gamster*, with a very powerful cast. As *Beverly*, he has made an impression so striking, that we could almost say it is too deep for the nerves to bear. It is a masterly personation of the infatuated and devoted martyr to an overwhelming vice. Mrs. Warner, as *Mrs. Beverly*, is extremely fine in the energetic and passionate parts. Phelps's *Stukely* is a stern reality; and Anderson's *Lawson* excellent. Elton plays *Old Jarvis* as well as it can be played; and Miss Ellis's *Charlotte* was good enough for the character. Altogether, the tragedy is performed with extraordinary effect. The applause was enthusiastic; for domestic miseries have

always a prodigious influence on London audiences.

The Haymarket.—Mr. Stuart, in the *Provoked Husband*, has gained another step, not only in popularity, but in the opinion of the judicious; and stamped himself a valuable accession to the metropolitan stage. Miss Bennet, as the Lady, was less successful. The *Stranger*, previously performed with great talent by Mr. Stuart, ought, in order of time, to have been recorded as the first step, or rather stride, in public favour.

VARIETIES.

Bude Light.—A street-lamp on the oxy-oil principle has been arranged for trial in the wide open space of Pall Mall and Waterloo Place. It would be premature to speak of the value of the Bude light, of which this is a modification by Mr. Gurney, passing common gas through a preparation of Drummond-light properties, for this purpose. It was originally intended for light-houses; and, comprising "the greatest possible light in the smallest possible space," was approved for such use, as far exceeding in economy and brilliancy of effect the arrangement of Fresnel. Experience has not yet had time to surround the street-lamp with all judicious accessories, nor to regulate the combustion to the full advantage. We therefore withhold an opinion, merely stating that it vividly illuminated a large area, and appeared to us capable of improvement in regard to the size of the lamp compared with that of the burner; the light also we thought too much subdued, and not sufficiently steady. But time will probably remedy these seeming defects; and our well-intended hints may assist. Another experimental light is, we are informed, about to be put up at the crossing in Piccadilly, Regent Street, and Coventry Street.

Sketch of the Country round Amoy.—Mr. J. Wyld, with his usual alacrity, has already issued a neat little sketch of Amoy, rendered interesting to the public by its capture by the British force in China. It is slight, but perfectly distinct, and sufficient for the purpose.

Rev. T. D. Fosbroke.—On Saturday week died, at Wallford vicarage, Herefordshire, in the 72d year of his age, the Rev. T. Dudley Fosbroke, M.A., of Penbroke College, F.A.S., &c., for many years vicar of that parish; and well known as an eminent scholar and antiquary. Mr. Fosbroke began his long literary career in 1795, with "The Economy of the Monastic Life, as it existed in England;" a poem, with archaeological illustrations. "British Monachism" followed in 1802, 2 vols. 8vo. "Abstracts of Records and Manuscripts relative to the County of Gloucester," 4to, 2 vols. appeared in 1807; and since then a number of works, many of which have been noticed and reviewed with the eulogy they merited in the pages of the *Literary Gazette*.

Account of the Arvan Baryto-sulphate Pigment, by Professor Traill.—The works are about half a mile from the shore in Glen Sannox, within three or four hundred yards of several considerable veins of a very pure sulphate of baryta, traversing the granite of Gaoftell. The veins, which seem to be those discovered long ago by Prof. Jameson, cross the impetuous mountain-torrent that collects the waters of this wild glen; and two of them have been wrought on both sides of the stream. From them a large quantity of a very pure, crystalline, translucent sulphate is extracted. Some masses have a slight brownish tint. It is the straight lamellar variety, and for purity

exceeds the spar employed in the Ayrshire and Welsh manufactories of baryto-sulphate pigments. By sorting, washing, crushing, grinding, moulding, and drying, the spar becomes a pigment. Various colours are imparted to the sulphate at the Glen Sannox manufactory; such as blue, yellow, and green, of various shades.—*Edinb. New Phil. Journal*.

Habeas Corpus.—This writ was never so puzzled, or presented so great a physical difficulty to legal execution, as it has this week. It was moved to bring up the *corpus* of Cavanagh, the fasting Irishman (now fast in Reading gaol); but Lord Denman held that there could be no body to be found, and refused to authorise a needless search.

Beloved Relations.—The Rev. Sydney Smith has observed, that the relations most beloved in this world are "Relations once removed."

Con.—What Eastern tyrant does a brutal husband in a passion with his wife resemble? Give it up! He is like to *Hide-her-all-he-can*.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

T. Livii Historiæ, Drakenborchii, with Notes by Creever, 3 vols. 8vo, 1l. 11s. 6d. — Poems, by Anne Beale, 12mo, 7s. 6d. — Carrington's Plymouth and Devonport Guide, 18mo, 5s. — Lewis Pook on Assurance upon Lives, post 8vo, 7s. — Memorials of Clutha; or, Pencllings on the Clyde, by E. Anna Phipps, 8vo, 7s. — Biblical and Theological Dictionary, by S. Green, 18mo, 4s. 6d. — Lays and Lyrics, by Charles Gray, fep. 7s. 6d. — Goethe's Faust, translated into English verse by Sir G. Lefevre, M.D., 18mo, 6s. — Low's Annual Catalogue of Books and Engravings for 1841, roy. 8vo, 2s. — Bishop Beveridge's Sermons on the Church, 2d edition, 5s. — Eighteen Short Sermons, 12mo, 4s. — Parochial Sermons, by the Rev. W. Gresley, 12mo, 7s. 6d. — The Writing-Desk, by T. Griffiths, 18mo, 2s. — Lectures on Popery, First Series, by the Rev. W. Brooks, 12mo, 2s. — Memoir of the late James Hailey, 12mo, 5s. — Kuott's New Aid to Memory, Part III. Scripture History, 12mo, 7s. — Female Character, by Albert Pennington, 2d edit. fep. 2s. 6d. — The New Jack the Giant-Killer, by Mrs. Lamont, 18mo, 2s. 6d. — The Benfrewshire Annual for 1842, 5s. — Le Comte Almanach pour 1842, 5s. — Winslow on the Atonement, 2d edit. 18mo, 2s. 6d. — Pictorial Shakespeare: Tragedies, Vol. II. roy. 8vo, 1l. 2s. 6d. — The Anglo-German Reader, by O. Schmidt, post 8vo, 6s. 6d. — Rustic Architecture, by T. J. Ricauti, 4to, 35s. — Conversations on the Parables, 5th edit., 18mo, 2s. 6d. — Memoir of Capt. E. P. Brenton, R.N., by his Brother Admiral Brenton, 8vo, 7s. — A Family Record; or, Memoirs of the late Rev. Basil Woodd, fep. 4s. — Pastoral Addresses, by the Author of "Decapolis," 32mo, 1s. — My Boy's Second Book, by M. F. Tytler, sq. 3s. 6d. — Practical Treatise on the Law of Estate for Life, by A. Bisset, 8vo, 13s. — De Montfort; or, the Old English Nobleman, 3 vols. post 8vo, 1l. 11s. 6d.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1842.

January.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday . . . 6	From 28 to 36	30.03 to 30.19
Friday . . . 7	19 . . . 33	30.30 . . . 30.33
Saturday . . . 8	25 . . . 32	30.53 . . . 30.26
Sunday . . . 9	23 . . . 30	30.15 . . . 30.05
Monday . . . 10	23 . . . 30	30.02 . . . 29.94
Tuesday . . . 11	23 . . . 34	29.87 . . . 29.92
Wednesday . . . 12	27 . . . 34	29.95 . . . 29.93

Wind north and north-west from the 6th to the 9th; since south and south-west. Except the afternoon of the 6th, and following day, a general overcast; snow fell on the morning of the 6th, evening of the 7th, morning and afternoon of the 9th, morning and evening of the 11th, and morning of the 12th.

CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.
Latitude, 51° 37' 32" north.
Longitude, 3 51 west of Greenwich.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ERRATA.—It is difficult to be quite correct with Egyptian names in MS., and much depends on their accuracy. We will thank our readers to amend the following errata in our last report of the Royal Society of Literature, p. 33: middle col., the title of Piercer of Shepherds, instead of Tormone-net, should be Tormone-Net; in the last, line 1, for *Atmon read Atmou*; line 5, for *Atmon read Atmou*; and line 7, for *Atmon and Atmon make the like alteration, and read Atmou and Atmon*.

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THE THAMES TUNNEL is open daily (Sunday excepted) from Nine in the Morning until Six in the Evening, and lighted with Gas. The present Entrance is on the Surrey side of the River, close to Rotherhithe Church. The Shield has now been advanced into the Shaft at Wapping, thus making the length of the Tunnel 1155 feet.—Admission, 1s. each.

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In the original announcement of "The Pictorial Shakspeare" a *LIFE OF THE POET* was necessarily proposed; but the materials which the Editor has collected require an extension of his plan; and he contemplates such a Biography, (scanty as the personal authorities may be,) as may regard Shakspeare in connexion with his Age, its Literature, its Politics, its Religion. This will form the greater portion of an Eighth or Introductory Volume; with a brief HISTORY OF OPINION ON SHAKSPERE'S writings—during the course of two centuries and a half—in our own country, in France, and more especially in Germany.

It is intended to commence the Publication in February, 1842, of a new edition of "The Works of Shakspeare, edited by Charles Knight." This will *not* be a "Pictorial Edition," in the former sense of the term; although those Wood Engravings will be introduced which really illustrate the author better than any verbal explanations. The Works will be handsomely printed in demy octavo, and the Life, and other Introductory matter, will form part of this edition.

In entering upon this undertaking the Editor relies upon the same support which he has already so abundantly received, for the production of an edition in a form more convenient to the student and general reader, though less attractive as an embellished book. It is his intention to make the LIBRARY EDITION as complete and as correct, in a literary point of view, as his most assiduous care will allow. In the "Pictorial Edition," the text was subjected to a more careful collation, not only with reference to verbal accuracy, but in the important matter of versification, than had been attempted for many years. And not only for the detection of typographical errors was this careful collation with the original copies undertaken; but the corruptions of the text, produced by a long course of unscrupulous changes, called corrections, were in this way searchingly examined, and in most cases set aside.

Since the publication of the posthumous edition of Malone, by Boswell, in 1821, there had been no attempt to produce a new critical edition, which should sedulously

examine the ancient texts, instead of revelling in conjectural emendation—should avail itself of any improved facilities for illustrating the author—exhibit something of what had been done to that end in foreign countries—and, above all, casting aside the ignorant spirit of all that species of commentary which sought more to shew the cleverness of a depreciating criticism than the confiding humility of a reverential love, should represent the altered spirit of our literary tastes during the last quarter of a century.

To carry forward his labours in the same spirit, aiming also at the attainment of the utmost accuracy, will be the great object of the new edition. In deciding upon doubtful texts, the principle which has already been the Editor's guide will be steadily kept in view. That principle has been to make the folio of 1623 the foundation of the text; to resort to the quartos whenever that edition was evidently incorrect, or gave a doubtful sense; if the quartos did not solve the difficulty, to adopt what was thought the best of the conjectural emendations of Shakspeare's editors, English and Foreign. There is a wide difference between making one edition the foundation of a text, and servilely adhering to that edition.

With this view, it is the Editor's intention to collate the matchless collections of Shakspeare's plays in the BRITISH MUSEUM and the BODLEIAN LIBRARY. The necessary facilities for so doing have been extended to him with the most ready kindness. Having made the folio of 1623 the foundation of his edition, it is now his duty to spare no care that may correct any mistakes into which his confidence in that edition may have led him. He believes that he will not have much to correct.

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